

Three-year low as rate falls to 4.7%

We have licked inflation, says buoyant Major

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BRITAIN's inflation rate fell to 4.7 per cent in August, the lowest level for more than three years, prompting renewed speculation of a further cut in interest rates and an early general election.

The fall from 5.5 per cent in July was slightly less than the City had expected, but it was enough to inspire the prime minister to declare that inflation had been licked.

The figures also suggest that the headline rate might drop to the Chancellor's 4 per cent target or less when the next retail price index is published on October 11 — just as John Major rises to address the last day of the Conservative party conference. The City and Westminster believe he might use that occasion to cut interest rates and call an election for November 7.

Yesterday Mr Major welcomed the August figures saying: "We can be confident now that we have got inflation licked in a way we have not

seen for many years." Norman Lamont noted that Britain's inflation rate was now below the European Community average and would soon fall to levels comparable with the best in Europe. Britain had secured its place in the "first division" of the new Europe, the Chancellor said.

But Neil Kinnock accused the government of reducing inflation by wiping out jobs and businesses. "The government is not curing inflation," he told party workers in his Islington constituency. "It is only suppressing inflation, at great cost to the country. The government's policy is a policy for recession now and inflation in the future."

With yesterday's figures offering Mr Major the economic boost he needs in deciding the timing of the election, ministerial attention will now turn to the next batch of opinion polls. If the Harris and ICM surveys to be published on Sunday show the Conservatives building on their slight advantage over Labour, pressure on Mr Major

to go to the country in November will intensify.

Most ministers still favour waiting until next year in the belief that more time is needed for voters to feel the benefits of an economic recovery, but Mr Major's remark about licking inflation could rebound on him if he does not call an election this year. Headline inflation is likely to rise again during the winter, after falling to about 3.5 per cent in December, simply because of the way the retail price index is constructed. If 3.5 per cent appeared to be the low point of the cycle, it would be hard for the prime minister to call this the best performance in many years: inflation fell to 2.4 per cent in the summer of 1986 and was below 4 per cent as recently as the spring of 1988.

Other factors that may persuade the prime minister to go to the country sooner rather than later include his desire to secure his own mandate and concerns that rising unemployment, Commons clashes over the proposed council tax and a possibly divisive December European summit could undermine the government's standing.

Tory insiders said yesterday that if the polls over the next three weeks showed the lead stretching to eight points by the time of the Blackpool party conference, Mr Major would probably take the plunge. However, there is doubt in senior Conservative circles that such an upsurge is likely.

In the City, economists noted that the underlying inflation performance was proving even better than the Treasury could have expected when it issued its prediction of 4 per cent inflation by the end of the year. The most unexpected news on this front came on Thursday when employment department figures showed that the growth in average earnings had fallen to 7.5 per cent and manufacturers' unit labour costs had risen by only 1.8 per cent since the fourth quarter of last year.

Next month should show a further half-point drop because of changes in the annual comparison of petrol prices. Lower mortgage rates should also help again, suggesting a headline rate very close to 4 per cent. But there could be an upward blip in December, when last year's cut in mortgage rates falls out of the annual comparison. The November figure, out just before Christmas, is therefore likely to be the best for some time.

US rates cut, page 21



Battle weary: a Croatian National Guard woman yesterday after fighting near Osijek

Baker rejects plea for more spending on police

By QUENTIN COWDREY AND DOUGLAS BROOM

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, last night firmly rejected a barrage of calls from councillors, chief constables and Opposition MPs for more spending on the police in the wake of riots in four cities.

Mr Baker's statement, made at a meeting with representatives of metropolitan police authorities, came in spite of signs of ministerial nervousness about political fallout from the riots in Cardiff, Oxford, Newcastle and Birmingham — the worst spate of civil disorder since 1981.

Aware of the tough line to be taken by the Treasury in this autumn's public spending negotiations, Mr Baker said that there was no question of the government increasing the £41.8 billion ceiling imposed on local authority spending

for next year. Any increases in law and order spending would have to come from other services, such as education.

Yesterday, Geoffrey Dear, inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, decided not to recommend a certificate of efficiency for the troubled Derbyshire police force. He said that the force continued to be racked by funding difficulties, poor morale and organisational strife.

As ministers displayed apprehension about what effect disorder might have on their standing in the polls, Labour claimed that government spending cuts on local authorities were fuelling discontent in inner-city areas and hampering the police response to disturbances.

Roy Hattersley, shadow

home secretary, pointed to the inconsistency of police authorities receiving Home Office approval to raise spending, but then having their budgets cut due to government-imposed "caps". "There would be a much lower crime rate in the country if the police authorities were allowed to spend the money on the police they need," he said.

Mr Hattersley said that a Labour government would make a fundamental switch of spending from prisons into crime prevention.

Mr Hattersley's claims that police had been hamstrung by lack of manpower in dealing with recent riots in North Shields were rejected by Sir Stanley Bailey, chief constable of the Northumbrian force.

Sir Stanley said: "The issue of policing the area at this point of time is not one of manpower". He conceded, however, that there was concern among chief constables about the need for long-term increases in police funding.

Leaders of the Labour-dominated Association of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday told Mr Baker that more than £33 million had been cut from 1991-92 budgets of the six metropolitan police authorities, one covering Tyneside, due to capping.

Derbyshire dispute, page 2
Leading article 13

Croatian symbol falls to the Serbs

From ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

THE Croatian town of Kostajnica, which had become a stubborn symbol of the republic's resistance, has fallen after five days under siege by Serbian guerrillas backed by the Yugoslav army.

The victory for Serbia's forces came after some of the most ferocious fighting to date and on the eve of the expiry of a deadline, set by the head of the federal presidency, Stipe Mesic, that he would request intervention by UN forces unless the army withdrew to barracks throughout Croatia by midnight last night. But Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister, said that he had "not the slightest intention" of obeying the order



because it was "a violation of the rights of the presidency".

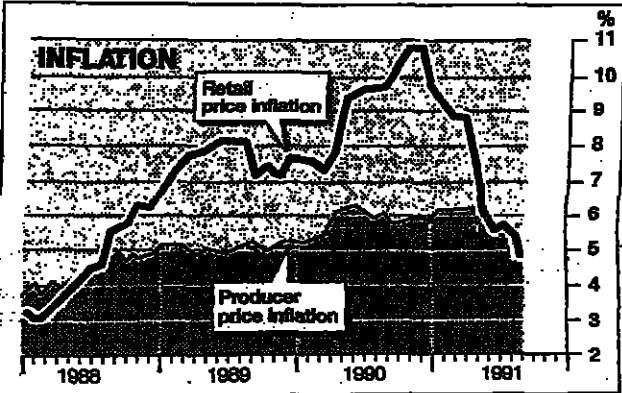
The fall of Kostajnica inflicts a serious blow to Croat morale and provides further confirmation for the Serbs that, backed by the army's weaponry and air strikes, chunks of Croatian territory are theirs for the taking. The rest of Croatia has watched in horror as the town on the sensitive border with Bosnia-Herzegovina was encircled by Serbian troops. The desperate Croat national guard, short of ammunition and food supplies, had repeatedly broadcast messages saying that it would "at no price abandon Kostajnica".

By late Thursday night, however, it was clear that the defence forces were on the verge of defeat and a mass killing of the Croatian guardsmen trapped in the town was feared. But the Serbs allowed the men to flee, and early yesterday the entire town was in the hands of the guerrillas, who flew the Serbian flag outside the central police station, or what was left of it.

Yesterday the Croatian national guard claimed that it had met with opposition from the Yugoslav army when it tried

Continued on page 18, col 4

Carriagton visit, page 8



Marxists meet for secret rebirth

Old communist habits appear to die hard as Soviet party activists still gather behind closed doors, reports Bruce Clark from Moscow

THE news sent shudders down every democratic back: the prime minister of Estonia, Edgar Savisaar, said it could portend another bloody coup.

Brazenly defying a ban on their activities, so the story went, the 300 or so surviving members of the central committee of the Soviet Union met in secret last weekend for some nefarious purpose.

After 70 years of padded living, people asked, can the bolshevik tradition of conspiracy really be so strong? Had the sequestrators of property, limousines and files failed, after all, to ring the CPSU's tired old neck? Well, it may be that somewhere in Moscow, or Zurich, a mercenary clique of plotters is dreaming up ways to reimpose communism on an ungrateful Russia. But if there is anything in common between the 25 communists who actually met in the capital last weekend and the revolutionary movement of tsarist times, it is not

ruthlessness nor the ability to threaten so much as a village post office with violent overthrow, but modest circumstances, earnest dedication to obscure ideas and arcane internal divisions.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky would have been perfectly at home in the cosy single room, cluttered with books and heavy antique furniture, which is the home and headquarters of Aleksandr Buzgalin, a CPSU central committee member and convenor of last weekend's meeting.

Dr Buzgalin, an engaging young Moscow university economist is something rather unusual in today's Soviet Union. He actually believes in marxism: not as a path to personal advancement, nor a half-understood substitute for religion, but as a rigorous system of thought.

The body that met last

Continued on page 18, col 1

Sex revolution, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Afghan deal, page 8

Shamir defies US on loan threat

By RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL reacted strongly yesterday to President Bush's threat to veto any housing aid package which Congress might approve before the opening of the planned Middle East peace conference.

In terms normally reserved for its Arab enemies, the government of Yitzhak Shamir made it clear that rather than submit to pressure

from the Bush administration it would prefer to forgo the \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) in housing loan guarantees it has requested to help settle new immigrants. "Money is essential to the realisation of our projects," Mr Shamir was reported as telling a closed meeting of French Jewish supporters in Paris yesterday.

"But Israel will never accept a choice between fidelity to its essential interests and money."

Israeli outrage, page 7

"Should someone try to pressure Israel to make concessions we will not hesitate for a second. The answer will always be we will stick to our ideals and our aspirations." Israel radio reported the prime minister as saying.

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Leading article 13

Wonder of Sydney wins the modern prize

By GEORGE HILL

SYDNEY Opera House, the US space programme and Concorde are the wonders of the twentieth century most fit to stand beside the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, according to readers of *The Times*.

Almost half the readers who entered *The Times Saturday Review* competition to name the seven wonders of this century named one or more of these in their lists. In a notable display of unanimity, two-thirds mentioned Sydney Opera House as a modern equivalent of the pyramids and the Colossus of Rhodes. The other marvels on the majority's list of the top seven are the Aswan Dam, the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Channel Tunnel. A

SEVEN WONDERS

The seven wonders of the twentieth century, chosen by readers of *The Times Saturday Review*.

1. Sydney Opera House
2. US space programme
3. Concorde
4. Aswan Dam
5. Empire State Building
6. Golden Gate Bridge
7. Channel Tunnel

the competition, Disneyland — with its avatars Disneyworld and Epcot — took eighth place on the popular list, but Richard promoted it to his top seven.

The editor of *The Times*, Simon Jenkins, who picked Richard's entry, out of the hundreds submitted,

praised him for including "wonders of the imagination" such as Disneyland alongside wonders of science, engineering and architecture.

Richard's prize is a week's holiday for two to visit the modern wonder of his choice, which, with very little hesitation, he declared to be Disneyland.

No comment is available from Cheops, Pheidias or the other creators of the original seven wonders about their reaction to the news that a fairground, a music theatre and a variety of noisy machines are seen by the modern world as peers to their masterpieces in gold, ivory and stone.

And it will take a 2,000-year wait to find out whether the fame of the modern wonders will be as durable.

Some of those who responded to our call for modern wonders approached the task in a very different

spirit to that of the majority. Bernard Levin named the *Galette de truffes et celeris au foie de canard* as cooked by M Jacques Pic of Valence. Chris Scarre, writer of the *Saturday Review's* series on the seven ancient wonders, chose seven wonders of technology, including the Apollo space capsule and the James Clerk Maxwell radio telescope in Hawaii.

"Architectural wonders paralleling the original seven do not represent the distinctive impact of the modern world, which is technological," he says.

Jim Payne, of the Australian High Commission, last night expressed his pleasure at the choice of Sydney Opera House. "Certainly for Australians it is a very symbolic building."

Full report, *Saturday Review*

THE TIMES WEEKEND



Weekend Times, the broadsheet colour section that completes the complete Saturday newspaper, opens today with Richard Morrison on jingoism set to music, aka tonight's Last Night of the Proms (above): more than a feast of patriotism, more like a good excuse for a party. Ridiculous, traditional, anachronistic... fun

HOUSE PARTY



Cotehele House on the banks of the Tamar is a perfect Cornish setting for visitors in search of weekend relaxation, plus a little extra: such as a fascinating experiment in access and conservation

SATURDAY REVIEW



To be fat, middle-aged and still have people think we're a nuisance is a tremendous thrill!

Rik Mayall made a name joking about stardom. One of his jokes began: "When I'm being interviewed about my new film and my new play and my new television series... Today the Review interviews Rik Mayall about... yes, and much more"

Also today: Lynne Truss welcomes the *Omibus* Greenway and the return of *The Late Show* (page 11). The race for the county cricket title is still wide open (page 36)

HOW MUCH DID THIS MAN KNOW?

ABSORBING, TENSE, AND ALL TOO CREDIBLE...

HOW MUCH HAD THIS MAN READ?

...THIS IS ALL A PROPHETIC THRILLER SHOULD BE

SAVIOUR'S GATE
TIM SEBASTIAN

OUT NOW IN BANTAM PAPERBACK

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The policing of urban Britain

Morale of Derbyshire force 'disintegrating'



Dear: reported little progress since last year and, in many respects, substantial decline

A DISPUTE developed yesterday over the state of Derbyshire police after Geoffrey Dear, inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, decided not to recommend a certificate of efficiency from the force until improvements were made.

Mr Dear's decision, unprecedented in modern policing, was contained in an interim report to the Home Office on the force. The report spoke of "serious underfunding, delays in altering bureaucratic procedures by the Labour-led police committee, disintegrated morale and some of the country's worst police statistics."

Mr Dear's interim document was drawn up after a full report he made last year when he said the force was on the brink of inefficiency. However, John Newing, chief constable of Derbyshire, said yesterday that he disagreed with the tone of Mr Dear's

The chief constable of Derbyshire has again found himself defending his force against what he says is the inevitable results of government underfunding. Craig Seton reports

new analysis. He said that some of the report's language and points were unduly alarmist and pessimistic. Mr Newing added: "The political future that can now be expected is unlikely to do much to help the development of the force or improve the quality of the service we are able to offer to the people of Derby." The report was also condemned by Bob Jones, chairman of the police committee, who said he would not be bullied or railroaded into making changes.

Mr Dear, formerly chief constable of the West Midlands, said the prospect for

Derbyshire police was bleak. He was not able to make a recommendation "at this time" to the home secretary to issue a certificate of efficiency under the Police (Grant) Order 1966. One of the conditions of the Home Office issue of a police grant is that the home secretary has to be satisfied that a police area is being policed efficiently.

In the report Mr Dear said the situation in Derbyshire was worse than he found it 12 months ago. While he accepted that other forces were also suffering in the economic climate, he added: "Rarely, however, are these statistics as

bad elsewhere and nowhere are all the shortcomings to be found clustered within one force."

He said severe cuts had been imposed on the force's revenue budget. That had been made worse by central government capital funding procedures which had not allowed the force to develop its current capital programme.

He said, however, that it was within the revenue budget that the greatest damage was being caused. Swingeing cuts had been made to essential operational and support elements affecting training and career development, staff appraisal and overtime. Police mileage was restricted and recruitment had been suspended. At the end of June the force was 66 officers and 100 civilians below establishment.

He accepted that some changes had been made but it would take time for results to

be tested. There had been little measurable progress since last year and in many respects there had been substantial decline.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Newing said that all the progress the force had made over the past 15 months was not detailed in Mr Dear's interim report, other than in an appendix. He said: "It is disappointing and frustrating to find myself once again in a position of having to defend the force following publication of the report. Criticisms of the constabulary were more the result of under-resourcing than of the quality of people who worked for it."

Mr Newing said he and Mr Dear were at one about the force being under-resourced. "There is no doubt that the morale of the force is worse than it was twelve months ago. The cuts are taking their toll."



Newing: blamed criticism on underfunding, not the quality of the people in the force

Prince pledges to train architects

From MARCUS BRINNEY IN ROME

THE Prince of Wales is to launch an initiative in architectural education to help to create "an appropriate architecture for the 21st century".

He said last night in Italy, where a summer school he initiated on civil architecture has just finished: "My summer school has proved the existence of an unsatisfied demand for a kind of learning and apprenticeship which is no longer available in current architectural schools."

In the gardens of the Villa Lante near Rome he said: "I want to find a truly effective way of responding. I am looking for a means to engender an appropriate architecture for the 21st century through research, through practical building experience, through craftsmanship, through more sensitive use of modern materials and above all through the application of hard-won wise and ageless principles gleaned from observation of the natural world and the ways of the universe."

He added: "It has taken 50 years to destroy the accumulated wisdom of thousands of years. I am prepared for it to take at least as long to develop my plans, even if I have to be sent to a taxidermist to see them through."

Over the past six weeks students at the summer school have had an intensive course of tuition from leading architectural teachers. The 25 places were more than ten times over-subscribed.

Enthronement at cathedral

More than 2,500 people are expected at St Paul's Cathedral today for the enthronement of David Hope as bishop of London (Ruth Gledhill writes). Hundreds more are likely to attend a communion service open to all at St Paul's tomorrow night. Dr Hope, aged 51, will preach at both services, outlining his hopes for the future. Dr Hope, when bishop of Wakefield, worked closely with the hospice movement, the marriage guidance service Relate and the homeless. He plans to develop those interests in London.

Two new bishops were consecrated at York Minster yesterday. Canon Humphrey Taylor, aged 53, became bishop of Selby, responsible for the York area. The Ven David Bonser, aged 57, former archdeacon of Rochdale, became bishop of Bolton.

Clifford Longley, page 12

Ulster violence surge feared

Security sources in Belfast said yesterday that they feared increased violence after attempted bombings by Loyalists and two sectarian attacks. Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, appealed to paramilitaries to examine their motives for killings when retaliation was inevitable.

The Loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters yesterday claimed responsibility for two attempted bombings in Roman Catholic areas and said that it would match IRA violence. A man was shot dead by the Ulster Volunteer Force outside his home and a republican splinter group later shot and wounded a garage owner.

Blast kills man

One man died and two others were injured when a shell exploded at a scrapyard in Whitley Bridge, North Yorkshire. Bomb disposal experts searched the premises and checked a number of other shells but no further live ammunition was found. Neighbouring houses were evacuated as the area was searched.

Murder charge

A man aged 26 was yesterday charged with murdering Dr John Gore, a nuclear scientist, and his wife Ruth, whose bodies were found at their cottage near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, on Sunday. The man, who was not named, was charged at Dursley, Gloucestershire, after being questioned by police since Monday. He is expected to appear before a special sitting of magistrates at Cirencester today.

Test for pigs

A blood test for detecting blue-eyed pig disease should reduce the number of farms under restriction because of suspected infection, government scientists said yesterday. Some 51 farms are in quarantine although the disease has been confirmed on only 28. The Central Veterinary Laboratory in Weybridge, Surrey, developed the test after Dutch scientists isolated the virus causing the disease.

CHIEF CONSTABLES

Home Office to measure forces' quality of service

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have been ordered to supply the Home Office with annual details of police responses to emergency calls, how their officers deal with racial, rape and domestic incidents and the time constables spend patrolling the streets.

The data will form part of a package of almost 70 statistics designed to measure the

quality of police service to the public.

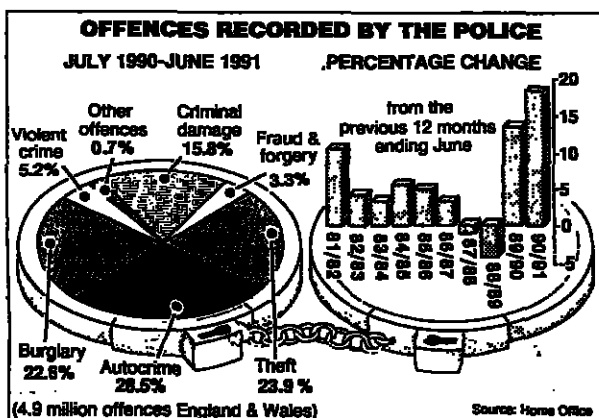
This weekend every force in England and Wales will be studying a letter from Sir John Woodcock, the chief inspector of constabulary, setting out plans next year to measure the way forces can meet the government's citizen's charter and internal service plans to improve police performance.

The data will include information providing a detailed picture of police operations in sensitive areas where they have drawn criticism.

Sir John's letter says that forces will be required to give details on contact with ethnic minorities, showing the ratio of arrests and charges compared with the rest of the population, stop and searches and complaints against police. Chief constables will also have to give details of the recruitment of female and ethnic officers.

The information will show for example what proportion of reported domestic and racial incidents result in police action. Forces will record the average time taken to answer telephone calls and the time officers spend on foot patrol. A failure to meet calls for improvement by the inspectors of constabulary may jeopardise funding for a force. Reports by the inspectors are now published and communities will be able to see how their forces are meeting calls for better service.

The quality of service framework will be built round five groups who come into contact with the police, including victims, suspects, callers to the police, users of police services such as witnesses and consultative groups, and the general public. Forces will be judged on the courtesy, sensitivity, integrity and competence shown by officers and satisfaction registered by the public.



On the up: recorded crime in England and Wales rose by 18 per cent in the year to June 1991, the Home Office said yesterday (Quentin Coward writes).

A total of 4.9 million offences were recorded over the period. Vehicle crime accounted for more than a third of the 755,600 extra offences. The average annual increase in recorded crime since 1980 has been 6 per cent, but growth has been steeper since 1989 - an effect blamed on the recession.

Leading article, page 13



Faces of development: above, a street on the rundown Elswick estate in Newcastle upon Tyne, and, below, flats in Easterhouse, on the edge of Glasgow



SCOTTISH RENEWAL

Spirit defeats deprivation

A GAGGLE of women, who stood gazing at the charred remains of the post office, derelict houses and the Bobby Shaftoe public house in Newcastle's Armstrong Road yesterday, were quick to voice their opinions about the cause of the mayhem.

The women, though, could come up with no better reasons for the violence than copycat hooliganism and the boredom of youths in a part of the city in which joblessness ranges from 25 per cent to 80 per cent. However, Scotswood's deprivation is no worse than in, for example, Easterhouse, on the edge of Glasgow, where the kind of trouble that has beset Newcastle, Bristol, Oxford and Cardiff is unthinkable.

Compared with Easterhouse, Scotswood has many

There is poverty and unemployment on the Easterhouse estate, near Glasgow, but there have been no riots. Kerry Gill finds out why

advantages: numerous small shops, pubs and reasonable transport. Yet there have been no petrol bombs hurled into the homes of Easterhouse, and no post offices set alight.

The difference is that, some ten years ago, people in Easterhouse decided that it was only they, with help from statutory bodies, who could force a change. Although the estate of 35,000 people is still deprived, with some streets registering up to 80 per cent unemployment,

Easterhouse now has a growing sense of community.

Nancy Taylor, director of the Greater Easterhouse Initiative, said: "£14 million has been spent on housing redevelopment as it was recognised that people actually wanted to live in a house with a back and front door. It is a scheme which has completely changed how Easterhouse looks. There is hope and better facilities are coming. We are not going to stand 'yobbing about', as one senior English police officer put it," she said.

Meanwhile Scotswood shops closed early last night, worried about further violence. One resident said: "Let me swap homes with you for a weekend then you would find out what it's like here. It is no longer a place to bring up your bairns."

COST OF INSURANCE

Sports car premiums rise 74%

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NORWICH Union, Britain's biggest motor insurer, yesterday announced increases of up to 74 per cent for premiums on high-powered sports cars that have become the prime target of thieves and joyriders.

The move is the first sign that insurance companies paying out £400 million a year to cover the cost of car crime are no longer willing to tolerate the rising tide of thefts. All of Norwich Union's 900,000 motor policyholders will have to pay at least an extra 20 per cent on their premiums this year as the company moves to stem losses on its private car business of £69 million.

Payouts for car crime alone were up by 66 per cent last year to £48 million, forcing the

company to choose for the biggest increases owners of high performance cars, particularly "hot hatchbacks". They are the most popular among criminals because of their image and performance, and are among the models that joyriders select.

The company said that cars such as the Ford Escort RS Turbo, MG Montego Turbo, Volkswagen Golf GTI and Peugeot 205 GTI were five times more likely to be stolen than the average car.

The huge increases mean that a motorist in Luton aged 30 with a 1.9-litre Peugeot 205 GTI will pay a premium of £549, instead of the present £349, for comprehensive cover with maximum no-claims discount. Other cars causing concern are the MG

Maestro Turbo and Audi Coupe GT.

Owners who fail to make their cars secure face stiff penalties through higher insurance premiums under new regulations being planned for later this year. The Association of British Insurers is shortly to introduce a new 18-band classification system, to replace the current nine-band scheme, which will allow more scope to identify cars which are easy to steal.

Insurers are also increasingly putting the onus on motorists to ensure that their cars are secure. Police estimate that 25 per cent of stolen cars are left unlocked.

Drivers are being warned that they face a compulsory excess charge if their car is not garaged at night, although that

could be waived if they have an approved burglar alarm fitted. Norwich Union policyholders will have to pay the first £100 of any claim unless the car was in a locked garage at the time of the theft.

The Prudential said: "If you have a garage use it. Do not clutter it up and leave your car in the street."

The new banding system will allow insurers more categories with which to trim the premiums of motorists who have taken precautions and raise premiums for those who drive "high risk" cars not fitted with alarms. Drivers will be encouraged by the price of insurance premiums to buy cars that have security features, such as deadlocks on doors, anti-theft radios and window etching.

Anita Roddick. Lucky lady or business genius?

Starting tomorrow, you can read exclusive extracts from 'Body and Soul', the provocative autobiography of the woman who built an empire from a £4,000 loan.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

حسبنا من الامم

Woman was 'manipulated by the malign influence of an evil man', says judge

Lawyer's daughter jailed for role in bank conspiracy

By BILL FROST

A LAWYER'S daughter who teamed up with one of her father's clients in a £428,000 conspiracy against a bank was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Judge John Hunter told Emma Gittings, aged 25, that he had no doubt that she had been manipulated by the malign influence of an evil man. A custodial sentence was warranted and appropriate, however, as a warning to others and as a mark of public disapproval.

Gittings, of central London, bowed her head and wept as she was led from the dock at Southwark crown court. She was convicted last Friday of conspiracy to steal, forgery and using a false passport.

She and Stephen Raymond planned to steal £428,000

from the British account of an American medical student, Gittings, posing as the student, flew to Luxembourg on a false passport to open an account. She returned to present a bogus letter to the student's bank asking for £428,000 to be transferred to the new account.

She was arrested a few days later while attempting to withdraw money from the account. Raymond was at the bank when she was taken into custody, but avoided capture.

Gittings, said to have started a romantic relationship with Raymond after falling under the spell of his "charm, humour and intellect", claimed that he had blackmailed her into the plot. Raymond, who was convicted of a £2 million theft from

Heathrow airport in 1978 and of a £500,000 fraud against Granada Television in 1985, is believed to be abroad. The court was told that he had escaped from prison three times during a 25-year criminal career.

Prosecuting counsel told the jury that Gittings was an intelligent, self-possessed, calm, young woman who had been motivated by greed. She had been attracted to Raymond and spent a great deal of time with him.

Alan Rawley, for the defence, said Gittings still maintained her innocence. "She has suffered many setbacks in her life, which included the death of her mother when she was still in her teens. She is extremely emotionally immature. She bitterly regrets not going to the police or her father," Mr Rawley said.

The jury was told that Raymond, described as an accomplished and intelligent criminal, could be bouncy and amusing one minute and sinister and menacing the next. A lawyer who had represented him said he always took the precaution of being accompanied when meeting Raymond.

In 1970, Raymond was acquitted of murder after three members of Parliament had agreed to back up his alibi, the jury was told. He was later convicted of armed robbery and studied criminal law while serving a ten-year sentence. John Howarth, a senior Crown prosecutor, told the court that Raymond became an expert, representing himself at every level of law except the House of Lords. "When I spoke to Raymond about law, it was as an equal," Mr Howarth said.

He described Raymond as a master of disguise who could change his appearance very quickly by facial contortion, body language and mannerisms. "He is an athletic man. But I once saw him put on a pair of spectacles and walk with a stoop. He was completely changed from the man who was sitting opposite me moments before."



Under a criminal spell: Emma Gittings arrives in court for sentencing yesterday

Killer taunts police with call to TV show

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DETECTIVES hunting the killer of Julie Dart, the teenager found dead in July, believe that her murderer telephoned the television programme *Crimewatch UK*, which featured the case on Thursday night.

Detective Superintendent Robert Taylor, who is leading enquiries, disclosed yesterday that the killer may have been among over 400 people who telephoned with information after a reconstruction of the case. He said: "Somebody rang in and wanted to speak to me and didn't give a name. It was an unusual call."

Viewers were told that Miss Dart, aged 18, may have been used as a pawn in a game of hate that the man is playing with police who received a ransom demand for her release. Mr Taylor, discussing the murderer, from whom West Yorkshire police have received a series of taunting letters and telephone calls, said: "His core aim might not

have been the murder of Julie Dart, but may be the obtaining of £140,000 from the police. He may well have a grudge against the police."

Miss Dart's battered body was found near Grantham, Lincolnshire, on July 19, ten days after she had been kidnapped from the Chapeltown area of Leeds. Police believe she was abducted at random.



Julie Dart: killer may hold grudge against police

More refusing to pay poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people refusing to pay the poll tax has risen sharply since the government announced that it would be abolished within two years, according to official figures. By the end of June, a third of all adults in England had paid nothing, compared with less than a quarter at the same time last year.

Between April and the end of June, councils collected only 12 per cent of this year's expected poll tax revenue, compared with 19 per cent in the same period last year. Labour-run Ipswich (poll tax £324) recorded the lowest collection rate, with only 0.2

per cent of expected income by the end of June. Tory Westminster (poll tax £36) did best, collecting 47.8 per cent.

The figures, released yesterday by the environment department, will add to fears that the poll tax system might collapse before its planned replacement by the council tax in April 1993.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, insisted that the worsening position was solely due to the timing of the government announcement that all poll tax bills would be reduced by £140 this year. The Budget announcement that poll tax would be cut by adding 2.5 per cent to VAT was made on March 19, after many councils had issued bills at the previous, higher rate.

Mr Portillo said that, as a result, poll tax bills were six to eight weeks later this year and people paying by instalments had only just begun making payments at the end of the

first quarter of the financial year. "The collection rate has improved in each successive month," he said.

Councils were also catching up with those who refused to pay last year. By the end of June, they had collected 93 per cent of budgeted poll tax income due in the year to March 31.

Figures for business rates were better. By the end of June, 23 per cent of income had been collected, compared with 19 per cent last year.

Local authority treasurers remain sceptical about ministerial optimism. While they accept that the £140 reduction delayed bills, many report increased levels of resistance to the tax. As well as straightforward non-payment, many people have written to councils saying they will not pay the sum shown as "other adjustments" on their bills, which is to make up for losses caused by those who did not pay last year.

HOW COUNCILS COMPARE		
	Poll tax (£/head)	% collected by end June
Westminster	36	47.8
City of London	175	34.0
Wellingborough	129	26.9
Hereford	211	25.5
Kensington and Chelsea	185	25.1
Leamington	324	0.2
Lambeth	450	0.5
Three Rivers (Herts)	275	1.8
Brent	330	2.3
Harrowgate	255	2.6

Source: Department of the Environment

Wally the nerd takes on world

A homegrown cartoon hero has gripped the imagination of children worldwide, and the wallets of their parents, Melinda Wittstock reports

PIZZA-munching mutant turtles beware: the next hero of children's consumerism is a hapless, bespectacled "nerd" named Wally who wanders blissfully through intricate maze-like people-scapes, barely recognisable among thousands of tiny, cowering characters.

Created by Martin Hanford, a British animator, Wally makes his debut on American national television this morning as "Waldo", the name that has endeared him to millions of American children who have kept Mr Hanford's quartet of *Where's Wally?* books at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list for months.

It is the first time the British have succeeded in selling a major cartoon series to an American network. CBS, swayed by massive book sales worldwide, opted to buy an initial 13 half-hour episodes from Mr Hanford and his British distributor, HIT Communications. HIT Communications, for \$300,000 (£176,000) a programme.

Waldo, clad in red-and-white striped shirt and jeans, will travel to locations both exotic and fantastic each week on television, meeting villagers who cannot stop eating, vampires that want to be human and robots past their prime. In every programme, the action stops twice and children are asked to find Waldo amid a crowd of almost microscopic characters "before it's too late".

In the US, Waldo has inspired a children's craze on par with the teenage mutant ninja turtles that has intrigued the media. *Entertainment Tonight*, an American television show, is to devote three programmes next week to the Waldo phenomena.

Worldwide book sales of *Where's Wally?* — or *Waldo*, *Charlie*, *Arf*, *Ubaldo* and *Walter* in the US, France, Egypt, Italy or Germany — have already reached 16 million, an unprecedented level for a children's book, in a market in which a global sale of 250,000 is normally



considered highly successful. The triumph of *Where's Wally?* in the US has already inspired copycat books such as *Hunt for Hector* and *Look for Lisa*.

"We have conquered America with a totally British effort," says Peter Orton, managing director of HIT Communications, which funded the series and now owns a 40 per cent stake. HIT, which is part of the

Vicar says he stayed loyal to holy orders

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICAR accused of adultery with a parishioner agreed yesterday that such an act would be the "most dreadful betrayal" of his holy orders.

The Rev Tom Tyler has denied adultery with Barbara Edwards during 1988 and 1989 when he was comforting her over her son's cot death. Cross-examined yesterday at a Church of England consistory court at East Grinstead, West Sussex, he was asked by Nicholas Atkinson, QC, for the prosecution: "To commit adultery with a woman in your cure of souls would be a betrayal of your orders, wouldn't it?" Mr Tyler replied: "Yes."

Mr Atkinson went on: "Mrs Edwards was a woman who was clearly greatly distressed at the loss of her child. Committing adultery with her would be the most dreadful betrayal."

Mr Tyler, aged 52, priest-in-charge of St Peter's, Henfield, West Sussex, agreed but denied that that was what had happened. He said that he had held the hand of Mrs Edwards, aged 32, and hugged her and kissed her cheek as part of his comforting, but had not begun an affair with her.

He denied allegations that he and Mrs Edwards had had intercourse in the dining room, hallway and matrimonial bedroom of her home on about a dozen occasions. He said that during his visits Mrs Edwards invariably had her three-year-old daughter with her.

Mr Tyler's wife, Patricia, gave evidence to say that their sex life had been "happy and fulfilling" throughout their marriage.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Seven are drowned in canal car crash

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN people drowned when their Fiat Panda car crashed into the Grand Canal at the village of Lucan, near Dublin, and overturned in 3ft of water early yesterday.

Police said it seemed that with so many people wedged in to so small a vehicle, there was simply no chance for any of the five men and two women to escape. The alarm was raised by a passer-by who saw the car seven hours later.

The dead are Patrick Caulfield, aged 33, and his wife Anne, aged 28, who had three daughters; John Lacey and Clare Doyle, both 40, who lived together and had six children; Christopher O'Connor, aged 28, married with four children; Patrick Cawley, aged 35, married with three children; and Larry Brennan, aged 37.

The group had reportedly been drinking together in a public house two miles from the village. When the car did not start immediately they left the public house and telephoned for a taxi to take them to Clonsilla, four miles away. However, they managed to start the car and cancelled the taxi.

Groups unite to save hall

Four conservation groups are making a joint approach to the government to urge it to buy Heveningham Hall, near Halesworth, Suffolk, a grade one listed mansion. The government, which sold the hall in 1981, has a pre-emptive option to purchase, which expires on December 11.

The Heveningham Action Group, the Georgian Group, Save Britain's Heritage and the Suffolk Preservation Society want the hall bought for the nation and given to the National Trust. The company owning it is in receivership, with debts of £3 million.

Marcus Binney, page 12

Gachot refused

Bernard Gachot, the Belgian racing driver, was yesterday again refused bail by the High Court and must stay in prison for at least another month pending appeal against an 18-month jail term for spraying a taxi driver with CS gas.

Fire injuries

Leslie Ramsay, aged 19, of Willenhall, Coventry, was yesterday in the burns unit of Birmingham Accident hospital with severe injuries after a gas-powered paint stripper he was testing burst into flames.

Loyal customer

Charlotte Hughes, aged 114, believed to be Britain's oldest person, had 100 years of custom with Barclays Bank in Middlesbrough, Cleveland, marked by a message from Sir John Quinton, its chairman, and a gift of a Victorian sovereign.

Royal link

The Edwardian stationmaster's house at Wolferton, Norfolk, once passed by royalty visiting Sandringham, is for sale at £325,000. Since rail services ceased, it has been made into a three-bedroom home with a swimming pool.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Owen on Jenkins — an old man in a hurry

When Roy Jenkins joined us the Gang of Four, One Sunday we agreed to meet Roy at his house. Unfortunately, either Roy or his friends had talked to a Sunday newspaper and I woke



to a front-page picture of Roy with a story revealing our meeting and giving the impression that he was in charge of the whole operation. To me it was just an irritation, another example of an old man in a hurry, but Shirley Williams was outraged.

David Owen, exclusive extracts from his autobiography — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Orkney social workers 'told to toe the line'

A SENIOR social worker involved in placing nine Orkney children in care after allegations of sexual abuse told other social workers that they were not to question her judgment, the judicial enquiry into the handling of the affair was told yesterday.

Michelle Miller, a social worker giving evidence to the enquiry before Lord Clyde, said Sue Millar, the team leader, became "angry and aggressive" if other social workers questioned her decisions.

Mrs Miller was questioned about a memo she and three colleagues wrote on March 25 voicing concern about aspects of the case, and about the measures of care required for a child not involved in the inquiry.

She said: "She [Sue Millar] commented that if we did not agree with her view on how that particular case should be handled, then she would call into question our child care practice." The inquiry was adjourned until Monday.

Ike blooms in robotic flowershow

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE gentle art of flower arranging has come to the Science Museum in London in the shape of a Japanese robot normally employed in fixing high-voltage cables.

The twin-armed machine, nicknamed Ike after Ikebana, the Japanese word for flower arranging, forms part of a Robot Japan exhibition at the museum from Monday. Although Ike is pretty smart as a robot goes, staff at Interflora fearing the approach of automation's dark hand, need not rush to resign.

Ike, built by engineers at Yaskawa Electric, is limited

to single-stem arranging: it can pick only one of four coloured flowers from a table, switch it to its second hand, and slot it into a vase.

John Becklake, head of technology at the museum, admits that Ike is unlikely to be showered with flower-arranging prizes but emphasises that the engineering, computing, colour vision and processing skills needed to coordinate the twin-arm task are considerable. "We know when people are older and younger how difficult such an operation can be... a baby will, for example, often put food up its

nose," he said. More than 20 laser-welding, wall-climbing and sword-wielding robots have been dispatched by Japanese firms and research organisations for the multi-million-pound exhibition, which has been organised by the museum, the Japan External Trade Organisation, and the Japan Industrial Robot Association as part of Japan Fest 91.

Many are examples of the more than 300,000 robots working in factories around the world. Others, such as Ike, are demonstrating less conventional skills. The



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£450+	£10
£350+	£5
£250+	£5
Up to £250	£10

Hospital is advised against lucrative chain letter appeals

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GREAT Ormond Street children's hospital has been cautioned against raising money through chain letters because of fears that they may mislead the public and expose people to fraud.

Two chain letters, asking for £20 donations, are circulating to raise funds for Great Ormond Street appeals. One aims to raise £500,000 for heart-lung transplants and the other is to generate £1.5 million for the reopening of four closed wards.

Yesterday the hospital pointed out that it had not initiated either letter. One had been set up by a relative of a patient, and the other by a charity which, apparently inundated with funds, had changed the wording of its letter to divert money to the hospital.

The Institute of Charity Fund Raising Managers says that such letters can quickly get out of control, with no means of stopping the flow of money once the target figure is reached. At worst such letters can be set up by people unconnected with a charity who are using its name for financial gain.

The institute, which represents most large charities, has provisionally advised its members, including Great Ormond Street hospital, not to use chain letters. It plans to publish a report next month.

Both of the Great Ormond Street letters, sent to various city institutions, call on the recipients to retype the letter on their own letterhead and send it to ten companies or individuals "who you know or hope would be willing to help". The retyped letter should be accompanied by a list of the other participants to date, it says.

A hospital spokeswoman said that she was aware of the institute's concern and added: "We realise that many people object to chain letters but with the present economic climate we appreciate the money that they are bringing in and we need it." The two chain letters, sent out in February and April, have so far brought in £160,000 for heart-lung transplants and £100,000 for general costs. Great Ormond Street has raised £54 million through its Wishing Well Appeal, to rebuild part of the hospital, and is trying to find £10 million a year to help with the running costs.

The institute argues that, since there is no means of halting the flow of money once an appeal target has been reached, the excess might be used for purposes other than the stated aim. Stephen Lee, the institute's director, said that a deadline in chain letters often put pressure on donors.

A letter passed to *The Times* shows how the aim of the fund

raising can become distorted. The appeal for a neo-natal heart-lung transplant facility at Great Ormond Street hospital had changed to the "neo-natal lung transport facility" in a letter dated September 5, having passed through the hands of several merchant bank secretaries. Although the original chain letter was sent out in February, a two-week deadline to raise funds still appears. The second letter calls for £1.5 million for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Fund, although the original asked for only £1 million.

Mr Lee emphasised that it was not illegal to raise funds through chain letters, provided that they did not contravene the 1988 Malignant Communications Act. Under the act, chain letters must not contain a threat, false information, or indecent or offensive wording.

However, Mr Lee said that the institute, which has 1,500 members, had advised charities against the use of chain letters pending further advice, because "they leave a nasty taste in the mouth of many people". He added: "Individual donors twenty times removed from the initial letter probably have very little knowledge about what they are giving to and what they are giving for. There is a potential there for abuse."



Steam ahead: the Taw Valley, seen under steam on the Severn Valley line, is one of two famous steam engines recruited by Network SouthEast to help it to celebrate past glories and to encourage people to abandon congested roads for rail travel. As part of Network SouthEast's gala day today, steam enthusiasts can ride behind the Taw Valley, one of the largest preserved steam locomotives in Britain (Michael Dines writes). The 1948 engine will operate in Cambridge. The 15in-gauge Green Goddess, from the world's smallest public railway, Kent's Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch light railway, will be at King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Naked Christ removed

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MODERNIST paintings of the stations of the cross, one of which shows Christ as naked, are to be removed from a south London church.

The Rev Brian Branche, vicar of St Peter's, Morden, wanted to remove them because they hindered him in his pastoral work. They also divided parishioners, some saying they were a help to devotion and others a hindrance.

Robert Gray, QC, chancellor of the Southwark di-

ocese, giving judgment at a consistory court at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, rejected suggestions that the paintings had unfortunate sexual undercurrents. "There is nothing in the pictures which is erotic or suggestive," Jesus was "reverently portrayed without a trace of sexuality".

The strongest argument against the pictures was the hindrance of the parish work of Mr Branche, a charismatic evangelist. Some parishioners had given clear evidence that the pictures did not help their devotion, he said. However, others had opposed the vicar and the parochial church council saying the stations of the cross were helpful to their devotion and were good works of their type.

The paintings were done in 1973 by Peter Peiz, a self-taught artist living in the vicarage, when the Rev Donald Reeves, a liberal catholic and rector of St James's Piccadilly, was at St Peter's.

Mr Gray ordered that the paintings be stored and preserved. Taste in the 1990s was different to that of the early 1970s. "But just as tastes have changed in the last 20 years, so they may change again," he said. "The parish will bear in

mind that paintings relegated to the attic by one generation can be the acclaimed masterpieces of the next."

Mr Gray said the paintings were fine examples of their type. He also rejected a petition for the removal of a mural of the Last Judgment outside the church, saying that there was an important difference between the taking down of the pictures and the destruction of the mural.

"Once gone, it is gone forever. It is already a landmark, and in this part of London landmarks are too rare to sanction removal and destruction of this one."

Mr Branche said afterwards that there was a lot of pain in the parish that was going to take time to heal. "While some will be saddened, a majority of the St Peter's family will welcome the removal of these controversial pictures, believing them to be unhelpful on their own spiritual journeys and a barrier to many who are new to the faith."

He had no plans to commission new stations of the cross and was happy for the walls to remain blank. "I think the church is a beautiful church."

Way opens for school league

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE parents' charter to be published by the government will open the way for the Audit Commission to produce league tables of the performance of state schools.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday that he was determined to make it a legal requirement for information about the achievements of state schools to be made public. He said the commission should be given the power to publish tables showing the efficiency of administration and support services of education authorities.

He said that authorities should have to make available information other than just examination results. Parents and the public should also be told of each school's truancy rate, the overall results of national curriculum testing and the numbers of school leavers going on to further education, training and jobs.

He said that he would not be surprised if some state schools bettered the exam results of the independent sector.

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Rising seas threaten to swamp Exmoor treasure

Something must be done to save Porlock Bay from sliding to oblivion, everyone agrees, but what? Michael Horsnell looks at the options



Point of contention: the shingle ridge at Porlock Weir, which no longer offers flood protection

A GEOGRAPHICAL treasure which once inspired a sonnet by the poet Robert Southey is under threat from rising sea levels. Porlock Bay in Somerset, one of the jewels of the Exmoor National Park, could be washed off the map within 30 years unless drastic action is taken to halt the encroaching sea, according to a report by the National Rivers Authority (NRA).

The low-lying Vale of Porlock, which comes down from the cliffs of the Exmoor plateau to meet the sea, is in a designated site of special scientific interest. Just offshore, lies a submerged forest, which 5,000 years ago was landlocked and which is still visible at low-water spring tides. Historically, the vale has been protected by a shingle ridge at Porlock Weir but this natural defence has been seriously weakened and flooding has become a menace.

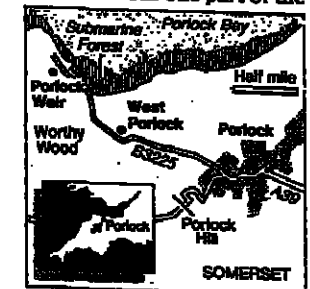
The village of Porlock was captured by Southey in a sonnet composed in the old Ship Inn when he sheltered there from the rain. But the village also managed to wreck a poetic dream. It was an unnamed gentleman from Porlock who interrupted Samuel Taylor Coleridge as he wrote out *Kubla Khan*, driving the vision from the poet's mind and leaving unfinished a classic of English literature.

The NRA report, carried out after the gales of February 1990 smashed the cottage-lined harbour at Porlock Weir, two miles from the village, says reinforcement work costing £300,000 is urgently required. More than seven years ago, an engineering report urged construction of permanent sea defences. It concluded that at least 300 acres of land were in danger of being flooded as a result of erosion and rising water

levels. No action was taken and the impending destruction of the bay was forgotten. After the storms and flooding last year, the newly formed rivers authority examined the bay and came up with proposals to strengthen the ridge, thus saving the harbour and surrounding cottages. Phil Hewett, of the NRA, said: "On the eastern side of the bay, shingle has piled up to a quite unnecessary extent as a result of the bay's tidal actions. We planned to scoop some of the excess shingle and use it to build up the weakened 'seawall' in the middle."

At this point other groups with an interest in Porlock voiced their concerns. The National Trust, which owns the land on the eastern side of the bay, was worried about the effect that shifting thousands of tons of shingle would have on plants and wildlife.

Rob Jarman, conservation officer for the trust, said: "The proposal to take tons of material from one part of the



shoreline and simply dump it somewhere else didn't seem to be getting at the root of the problem. What seems to be happening is that, over the past two centuries since the weir was built at Porlock, the flow of material carried on the tidal movements has been upset and the natural distribution of shingle has been disrupted.

"The NRA's proposal would not tackle the main cause of the problem and could end up irreparably damaging the bay. So we objected to the scheme and so did many other people with an interest in the site."

Other bodies involved include the Exmoor National Park Committee, in whose land Porlock stands; West Somerset district council, which is responsible for the road running along the shore; and the Porlock Manor Company, which owns the harbour and properties in the bay.

Now the various groups are being asked by the NRA to agree to fund a study lasting about two years into what engineers call the geomorphology of the bay, including an examination of tidal movement and rising sea-level, and how best to construct defences which will not damage the delicate eco-system.

Most have agreed that something must be done - but only the study will say what that is.

سكنا من الاميل

Raiders smash antique trade's calm

THE scene is Ryder Street in the West End of London, the time 11pm on August 29. A black car draws up outside the Peter Nahum gallery of 19th and 20th century art. A hooded man leaps out and swings a sledgehammer at the lower panel of the door, making enough space for his diminutive companion to squeeze through. Within 30 seconds, in view of a resident across the street and of the gallery's security video camera, the men have removed three valuable bronzes and made their getaway.

Although the loss adjusters have taken a half-page advertisement in this week's *Antiques Trade Gazette*, offering £5,000 for information, there is little prospect that Mr Nahum will be reunited with his £45,000 Teutonic male figure by the British sculptor Sir William Hamo Thornycroft (1850-1925) and two sculptures by Franz von Stuck (1863-1923). Like thousands of other artefacts being stolen, they are believed to have been smuggled out of the country immediately.

The scene changes to the Northamptonshire town of Weedon at 3.35am on Tuesday this week, when four men back a white Ford van

Ram-raid gangs have spread alarm among dealers and frustrated the police. Sarah Jane Checkland picks her way through the broken glass

into the window of Helios Antiques and make off with £40,000 worth of antiques. These are just two in a series of smash-and-grab raids which have been alarming the antique trade. The technique is thought to have been copied from the raid on the New Bond Street Jeweller Asprey in July last year, when thieves rammed the window with an iron girder and made off with a £742,500 necklace.

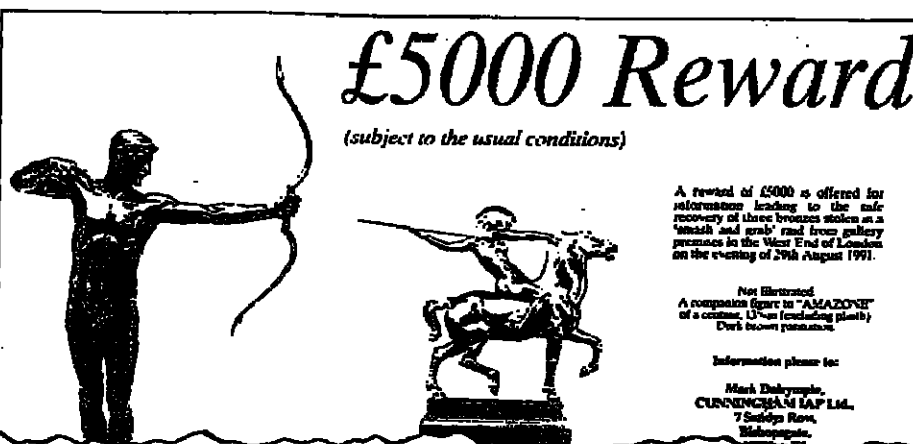
"There have been in excess of 20 smash-and-grab raids over the past three months," said Philip Saunders, editor of *Trace* magazine, which publicises images of stolen art to subscribers and the trade. "One Sheffield dealer has had vans ram his windows three times and high quality furniture taken."

It is believed that the antiques are being stolen to order. Lord Derwent, chairman of the London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association, said: "Out of all the raids on our members,

not one item has been retrieved." Because every raid entailed the destruction of a shop window's contents, he said, the raids were proving a risk to our heritage.

Last month he approached Earl Ferrers at the Home Office with suggestions that the government finance co-ordination between police forces: there is no national computerised list of stolen art and only a few forces have specialist detectives. Lord Derwent said the letter he received in reply this week was "full of tea and sympathy but thoroughly unsatisfactory".

Detective Constable Jim Hill, who specialises in art and antiques cases for Thames Valley police, said there had been 12 thefts in his area since October 1 and he believed they were by the same gang. "We are short of police to combat them," he said. Targets have included shops in the Oxfordshire towns of Chipping Norton (where an antiques shop was raided twice), Wallingford



Wanted poster: the advertisement showing two of Peter Nahum's stolen bronzes

and Burford, and in Moreton-in-Marsh and Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Gang members, he said, were always hooded and struck around Jam. Sometimes they used an axe or a hammer, sometimes they reversed a stolen car into the window. They always chose towns or villages some distance from a 24-hour police station. They selected between four and ten quality items, and usually relied on speed for their getaway.

So far, violence has been avoided, although on the night of August 1, having stolen a cement mixer in

Oxford and used it to block the way between their target and the local police station, the raiders started throwing chairs at the shop owner when he dared to interrupt. Philip Broadbridge, secretary of the London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association, who is trying to set up a telephone warning system among his members, said: "The antiques fraternity is finding itself in a very vulnerable position. There are no easy answers. People in the trade are a bit of a soft touch, with all those valuables under one roof."

Mr Saunders of *Trace* suggests that shop owners should attach iron grilles to the fronts of their premises. But it can take time to get planning permission from councils and, in North Yorkshire, a grille was torn from a facade by a lorry. Publishing a picture of a stolen item in *Antiques Trade Gazette* or *Trace* does sometimes act as a disincentive to receivers of stolen goods or persuades informers to step forward, but not always. Although two private computerised lists of stolen art have been set up in the past year, only a handful of stolen items have been traced.

Garden ornament sale challenged

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE Victorian Society is trying to block the sale by Sotheby's later this month of £35,000 worth of Japanese garden ornaments, on the ground that they may have been illegally removed from listed premises.

Richard Holden, senior architectural adviser to the society, has criticised the auction house for failing to carry out adequate checks on the listed buildings status of the items.

Sotheby's insisted that the anonymous vendors had given "categorical reassurance that none of the garden ornaments in question were listed". The auction house said that it was seeking legal advice whether to proceed with the sale on September 24. "Whether the Japanese garden is sold remains to be seen," it said.

The 33 lots, which include bridges, arches and lanterns, estimated at up to £4,000 each, have been removed from the Japanese garden created between 1905 and 1937 by Herbert Goode, a china and glass merchant, for his home at Cottered, near Buntingford, Hertfordshire. English Heritage had listed

the site as two star on its gardens register.

Goode, one of those who fuelled the Edwardian rage for all things Japanese, employed the professional Japanese landscape architect Seyemon Kusumoto to devise the garden's cascades and pools. The landscaper used specially imported stones to make a "path of life" leading across a bridge through a Shinto archway. According to *The Edwardian Garden*, by David Otterwill, the definitive book on the subject, Cottered was probably the most impressive example of a Japanese garden in England.

Mr Holden believes that the removal of the structures from the garden contravenes the listed building regulations. He contacted English Heritage after learning of the sale.

Philip Kear, a listed buildings specialist at English Heritage, confirmed that he had contacted Sotheby's on Wednesday and had subsequently written to the firm "setting out the requirements for listed buildings consent".

Letters, page 13

Law firm in patent dispute

A law firm that has set up an in-house patent agency, putting solicitors in competition with patent agents, is facing the possibility of legal action from the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (Frances Gibb writes).

Dibb Lupton Broomhead and Prior, which has offices in the North and in London, is one of the first in the country to offer a one-stop shopping service in patent disputes, combining the services of patent agents and lawyers.

However, the institute has demanded that the firm removes from its letterhead the words "patent agency" under the word "solicitors", arguing that a firm of lawyers is not in law allowed to present itself as operating a patent agency unless all the partners are qualified patent agents.

Prisoner jailed

Thomas Page, aged 35, who ripped off a metal table leg and smashed windows, light fittings and the ceiling in the custody area of Middlesbrough magistrates' court causing £7,600 worth of damage, was jailed for two years yesterday. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage and affray.

Man electrocuted

A man setting up marquee at South Farnham, Essex, died yesterday when a metal pole he was carrying touched a live overhead cable.

Stroke of luck

Young boys are cashing in on golfers' wayward strokes by plunging into the Stour at Christchurch, Dorset, to retrieve missing balls.

Full frontal

Phillip Tearle, electoral registration officer for West Somerset district council, says he will abscond naked down the front of the council building if another 2,000 people register to reach his target of 29,000.

Jail for drunken railman

A DRUNKEN railman who caused chaos on British Rail and London Underground lines when he fell asleep in his signal box was jailed for four months yesterday.

Kris Rama, aged 26, who had been swigging whisky, was found "slumped in his chair and apparently fast asleep", Isleworth crown court was told earlier. Trains came to a halt as Rama slept on, with three telephones ringing and a BR manager hammering on his door for three minutes. When roused, from his drunken slumber, he staggered and fell on his way to the door.

Yesterday, Judge Miller told Rama: "You had sole responsibility for the safe movement of trains in your particular area, including three level crossings. You were responsible not only for the safety of passengers, but also for members of the public."

The judge said that Rama had come on duty at 4.30pm, that at 11.30pm there had been no response from his box and that a doctor found evidence of acute intoxication.

Judge Miller said: "I have to consider the whole of the public and all the British Rail signallers who do their job perfectly properly."

Rama, of Kilburn, north London, earlier denied endangering passengers' lives, a charge to stay on the file, but admitted obstructing trains.

Three BR trains and several Underground trains, sharing track were halted for up to an hour on March 28, because Rama failed to operate the signal box at Acton.

Graham Henson, for the defence, said that Rama had not slept for several nights before the incident and was working 12-hour days, seven days a week. "He was doing this to feather his own nest, but also to go up through the grades so that he would have a good future," he said. Rama had now been sacked.

Radio 3 lifts veil on Oriental mystique

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is so profoundly ignorant about Japanese culture, according to John Drummond, controller of Radio 3, that the station has compiled a month of programmes to enlighten listeners.

Throughout October, Radio 3 will be celebrating Japanese contemporary culture with over 200 hours of classical concerts, opera, documentaries, short stories, drama, and traditional music and jazz. With two or three broadcasts a day, ranging from 15-minute informative *Snapshots* to two-hour dramas, Radio 3 is providing its listeners with the most ambitious international project it has yet attempted.

"We are inextricably linked with Japan in our economic life, but our knowledge of Japanese arts is mostly limited to the past. This ambitious effort will help us get behind the mask," Mr Drummond said.

Insights into Japanese society and the arts will be provided in two documentaries each week, with the first, *Acting Up*, exploring the position of women in Japan. Organised crime, technological innovation, politics and Japanese prosperity will also

be explored. A number of arts documentaries look at the Japanese film industry, theatre, fiction and music.

Six Japanese dramas, translated and adapted for radio, will be broadcast in the *Sunday Play* slot. Highlights include *Summer - A Romance of the High Seas*, which analyses Japanese attitudes to war crimes trials, *Yabuhara - The Blind Master Minstrel*, about a murderer, and *A Corpse With Feet*, a black comedy about dishonesty and manipulation between men and women.

Two visiting orchestras, the Saito Kinen Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kazuyoshi Akiyama will perform music by modern Japanese composers Toru Takemitsu and Toshio Ichihyanagi. Toru Takemitsu has also been commissioned by the BBC to write a new work, *Fanasma-Cantos*, which will be performed by the conductor Tadaaki Otaka with the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and Richard Stoltzman, the clarinetist.

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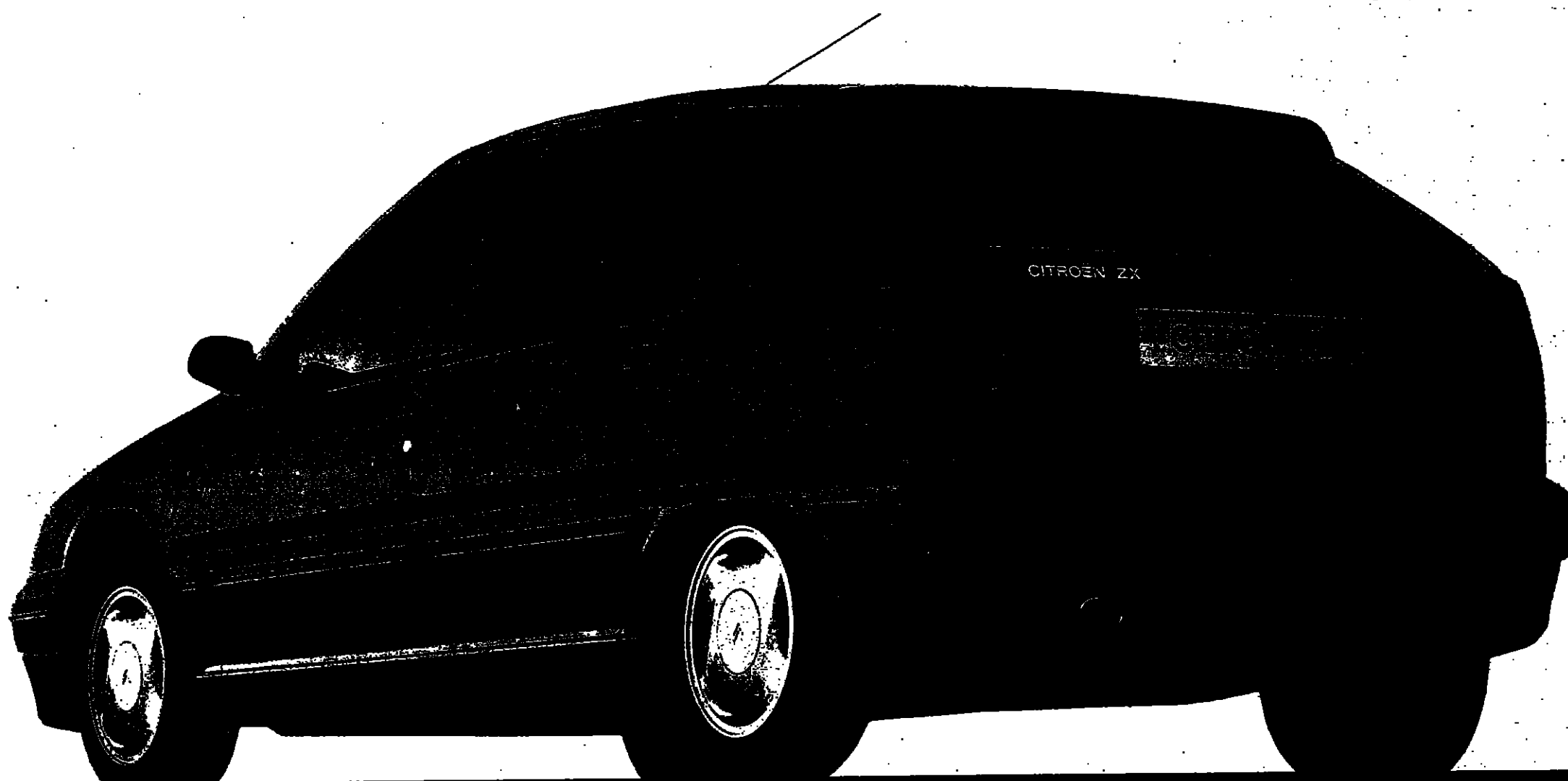
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سكن من الاحل

Indignant Israelis accuse US of siding with Arabs

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL hit back at President Bush yesterday, warning that it would not compromise in the row over American loan guarantees and threatening to put its redoubtable congressional forces into action against the White House.

In language normally reserved for its Arab enemies than its main benefactor and closest ally, the government of Yitzhak Shamir made it clear that rather than submit to pressure from the Bush administration it would prefer to forgo the \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) in housing loan guarantees it has requested. The money is required to help settle new immigrants.

"Money is essential to the realisation of our projects,"

Mr Shamir reportedly told a closed meeting of French Jewish supporters in Paris yesterday before his return to Jerusalem. "But Israel will never accept a choice between fidelity to its essential interests and money. Should someone try to pressure Israel to make concessions we will not hesitate for a second. The answer will always be we will stick to our ideals and our aspirations," Israel radio reported him as saying.

His remarks, which were far tougher than his bland public comments to reporters, reflected the deep fears throughout the right-wing government in Israel that the Bush administration is planning to exert every possible pressure on

Israel to make concessions at next month's scheduled Middle East peace conference. "For the first time a president of a friendly nation - especially the United States which was at the forefront of efforts to promote the emigration of Soviet Jews - now adopts a position that until this day only Arab states dared to take," said Ehud Olmert, the health minister who is a confidant of Mr Shamir. "That is, there must be linkage between the realisation of immigration and the political issue that stand between us and the Arab states."

Although Israeli economists have stated that President Bush's request for a delay of four months in the loan guarantee application would not seriously damage the country's capability to absorb immigrants, the issue has become a test of wills between the two governments. It may prove to be a watershed in Israeli-American relations.

Although more dovish members of the Likud-led coalition government like David Levy, the foreign minister, have attempted to cool tempers, Mr Shamir's closest cabinet colleagues yesterday vowed to fight the White House, using the considerable lobbying resources of the American Jewish community. "We have to stand on this position," said Roni Milo, the police minister.

The issue is likely to dominate talks between the Israeli leadership and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who arrives here on Monday to finalise details for the peace talks. However, his visit is not expected to ease the sense of outrage and disbelief here.

Yoel Marcus, a leading Israeli commentator for the Hebrew daily, *Haaretz*, described President Bush's outburst as the angriest by an American leader since Eisenhower told Israel to withdraw its forces from Egypt during the 1956 Suez emergency. But he told Israel not to push Mr Bush into a corner because most probably they would be dealing with him for another five years, assuming he wins the 1992 elections. The right-wing English language daily, *Jerusalem Post*, was less diplomatic and accused Mr Bush of "blackmail".

Pro-Jewish lobby changes tack in housing loan fight

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

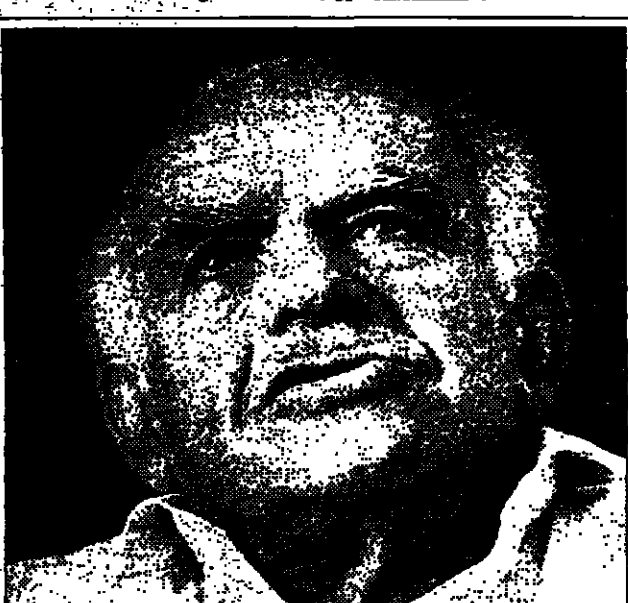
WHITE House supporters were confident yesterday that President Bush's demand for a delay in a congressional debate on \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) housing loan guarantee for Israel would be rewarded despite intensive lobbying by the largest pro-Jewish group on Capitol Hill.

Mr Bush has threatened to veto any law granting Israel's loan request before next year on the ground that financial support for the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israeli-occupied territories could jeopardise his administration's plans to convene a Middle East peace conference next month. But his tough stance was also seen as an attempt to prove to Democrats, who have a majority in Congress, that it is he, not they, who controls US foreign policy.

The president faces the influence in Congress of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. With an estimated 50,000 members, the traditionally Democratic committee is the most powerful of America's pro-Israel pressure groups. Its lobbyists have been knocking on the doors of legislative assistants of congressmen perceived as wavering on the loan issue. So, too, have lay members of the smaller pro-Arab lobby groups, but with less effect.

Despite claims from pro-Israel lobbyists that they are not seeking a confrontation, the housing loan request has provoked the angriest flare-up between Israel and Washington since former President Reagan successfully argued in favour of the sale of *Avner* radar aircraft to Saudi Arabia in 1981. One reason Mr Bush faces strong pro-Israel sentiment in Congress is that the group has since shifted its focus to prevent a similar defeat by gaining national support from evangelical Christians and others who support a Jewish state for theological reasons.

"They don't waste their time here," said one aide to Charles Schumer, a Demo-



Shamir declared that Israel would never sacrifice fidelity to its essential interests for money

Afrikaner extremists get seven death sentences

BY RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO white extremists were given seven death sentences yesterday for their roles in the bloody ambush of a bus carrying black passengers. A small group of supporters, wearing military-style khaki outfits, began singing a Boer anthem as David Petrus Botha and Adrianus Smuts were sentenced in a Durban court.

Both pleaded guilty to seven counts of murder and 27 counts of attempted murder in the October 1990 attack near Durban. In a chilling statement read in court, Botha said the attack was politically motivated and meant to avenge an earlier rampage by blacks who stabbed whites along Durban's beaches, injuring eight.

A third man, Eugene Marais, was convicted earlier this year and also given seven death sentences. Smuts, Botha and Marais are members of the extreme right-wing group, Order of the Boer Nation, which supports apartheid. Botha said one of the group's policies was that for every white person killed by a black, 10 blacks must die.

Yesterday's sentences came

as final details of a national peace accord, due to be signed in Johannesburg today, were being worked out.

Early yesterday a force of 1,200 police and troops surrounded the Phola Park squatter camp outside Tokoza, the township south east of Johannesburg where violence erupted last Sunday when gunmen ambushed a march by Zulu hostel dwellers, killing 24 of them. It was the biggest display mounted by the security forces for several months. A police spokesman said the aim of the exercise was to search for weapons and they expected positive results.

Overnight the police reported four more killings. Two black municipal policemen were shot dead by gunmen as they guarded a library in Thekane township, east of Johannesburg. In nearby Vosloorus, two men armed with AK47 rifles killed a man and a woman in a cafe. It is estimated that 125 have died and nearly 1,000 people have been injured during the past six days, many of them seriously.

The peace accord is being signed, at a national peace

convention, by President de Klerk, Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, and Mangosuthu Buthelezi the leader of the Inkatha Freedom party.

State-controlled South African television will be giving it all-day, live coverage on a spare channel. A Western diplomat said yesterday: "The world will be watching everything that happens. If these three don't reach agreement there will be hell to pay."

But Chief Buthelezi, in an interview here with the BBC's French service, said he did not believe the accord would work any better than a bilateral peace agreement reached between Inkatha and the ANC in January. He did not think it would "filter down to grassroots level where they are fighting; where they are killing each other."

Late yesterday Chief Buthelezi qualified his earlier remarks and pledged his party to work for the accord's success. In a statement, he said: "We are all hopeful, but must have some degree of scepticism about the peace accord actually working."



Exile's return: a Palestinian trade union activist, Ali Abdullah Abu Hilal, hugging his wife, Siham, and mother, Sahri, on his return to the West Bank yesterday. Mr Abu Hilal was deported in 1986 for anti-Israeli activity, but was allowed to return in exchange for the remains of an Israeli soldier captured in Lebanon (AFP reports from Jerusalem). "I feel like a child born anew and this is my second day ever," said Mr Abu Hilal as he sat down in his home in Abu Dis, outside Jerusalem. "Like a child, not a strong man," Mr

Abu Hilal, a union activist in Naif Hawatneh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was flown in from Vienna on the same plane which bore the remains of Samir Assad, an Israeli sergeant captured and held in Lebanon by the front's rebels.

Hezbollah urges release of Obeid

BY ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

SAYYED Hussein Mousawi, an Hezbollah official, said yesterday that all foreign hostages held in Lebanon would go free in a single day which could be "as early as today [yesterday]" if all detainees in Israel and Europe are released.

But he warned that American failure to press for the release of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid in the first batch of detainees might delay the freeing of more Western hostages. However, his cautionary note did not dampen the new mood of optimism over the fate of the ten Western hostages in Lebanon generated by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, who is at the heart of the complex negotiations in motion to resolve the issue.

Ending a visit yesterday to Iran, dominated by efforts to close the hostage file, he told a brief airport news conference: "On a personal basis... I continue to be hopeful that in perhaps the next days or weeks I could have some positive results."

For his part, Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, the mentor of Hezbollah, the main group behind the hostage-takings, described during Friday prayers the Israeli release of 51 prisoners on Wednesday as "positive". He said Hezbollah aimed to boost the efforts of Señor Pérez de Cuellar to secure the release of all foreigners held in Lebanon.

Mr Mousawi reiterated to reporters at his home in the town of Baalbek, 53 miles east of Beirut, his earlier message that an American or a British

hostage would go free in a week's time following the release of the 51 Arab detainees. "We have no objection to closing the hostages file today after the detainees in the prisons of the enemy and in Europe go free," he said. "I am certain that the kidnappers would not hesitate to respond to such an offer."

Mr Mousawi said that the operation to release the hostages was running smoothly but cautioned that the momentum could stop if Israel did not release Sheikh Obeid. His release has been a key demand of the Lebanese kidnappers.

Sheikh Fadlallah indirectly urged Germany to abandon "the sacred verdict" against the Hamadi brothers jailed in its cells for terrorism and join the hostage negotiations so as to free the two German captives held in Lebanon. "When a Western state detains a person or another on a charge of some sort, they claim that the court verdict against him is sacred and cannot be changed because of separation of powers in that country's political system," Sheikh Fadlallah said. "But if Iran or an Arab country arrests a Westerner, all the media would roar claiming that man was a hostage," he said.

Sunnie Mann, the wife of British hostage Jackie Mann, returned to Beirut late yesterday. She told reporters that she felt that this time he was going to be released. "I am optimistic more than ever before," she said.

UN soldier dies in rebel assault

BY ADAM KELLIHER IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A CORNERED squad of Palestinian guerrillas attempting to infiltrate into Israel from Lebanon took 14 United Nations soldiers hostage, but surrendered after exchanges of fire lasting an hour, in which two people died.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the UN interim force in Lebanon, said a Swedish sergeant and a guerrilla were shot dead and six others - two Frenchmen, three Swedes and a guerrilla - were wounded in the fighting near Naqoura, inside the Israeli-controlled security zone 60 miles south of Beirut.

He said six Palestinians, who identified themselves as belonging to the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation that is led by Yasser Arafat, landed on the shore in two rubber dinghies to evade interception by an Israeli gunboat. He was uncertain where the gunmen started the journey, but Israeli authorities said their intention was to penetrate further south to stage a "mass killing in one

of Israel's coastal cities". The first squad was immediately confronted by a UN contingent and surrendered. Mr Goksel said. He said the second group of three militants landed about 500 yards down the shoreline, and fighters captured six Swedish soldiers and eight French troops.

A French officer tried to negotiate their release, shortly before the house was surrounded by combined units of Israeli soldiers and the South Lebanon Army. A single shot sparked a fierce gun battle, which lasted for about an hour as Israeli helicopters hovered nearby.

The French foreign ministry yesterday condemned the incident as "deplorable". The Quai d'Orsay spokesman also expressed sorrow at the death of the Swedish soldier and the wounding of the other troops. France has about 500 men on duty with the UN forces in Lebanon, all volunteers from the professional army.

The PLO has denied it was behind the commando attack.

Slaves' grandson to fight Bush

Washington - Douglas Wilder, aged 60, the grandson of slaves and the first black to be elected as a state governor, declared his candidature for the presidency yesterday, pledging to restore "an American dream that is fading for all too many of our people" (Peter Stothard writes).

His declaration was accompanied by a call for "tens of billions of dollars" in spending cuts in order to bring back "the sunlight of economic vitality". Governor Wilder and Paul Tsongas Of Massachusetts will tomorrow be joined by a third contender, Tom Harkin, the left-wing senator from Iowa.

Cyprus delay

Nicosia - Oscar Camillon, the United Nations special envoy to Cyprus, has said that there will be no peace conference this month to reunite the divided Mediterranean island. "In the current situation it would not be wise to call a meeting because the result... in these circumstances would not be the best," he said.

Ozone probe

THE space shuttle, *Discovery*, will put into orbit today a \$365 million satellite to study the thinning ozone layer for the Mission to Planet Earth, a decade-long study of the environment from space. The upper atmosphere research satellite, in an orbit nearly 335 miles high, will be in space for at least 18 months.

Pledge to Iraq

Khartoum - President al-Bashir said that Sudan would help Iraq to secure supplies of food and medicines. He made the pledge during a meeting with Majid Abed Jaafar, the Iraqi finance minister who is here for talks on economic co-operation. Khartoum radio said. Sudan supported Iraq during the Gulf war. (Reuter)

Arrears failure

Lusaka - Zambia has failed to meet the deadline for an arrears payment of \$20.8 million (£12 million) owed to the World Bank. The bank immediately suspended funding, so freezing some \$80 million targeted for various development projects. Western donors have also decided to suspend aid. (Reuter)

Rapist husband

Douai - In one of the first cases of its kind in France, a husband charged with torturing and raping his wife has been sentenced to eight years in prison. A year ago, the French supreme court of appeal overturned an existing law and ruled that rape could exist within marriage. (AFP)

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RG 1409 TS

Moscow deal on Afghan arms signals civil war end

By MICHAEL BINYON

THE United States and the Soviet Union agreed yesterday to stop supplying arms to the Afghan government and the rebel groups trying to overthrow it. This important step towards ending the civil war of more than a decade was agreed by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Boris Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister.

It was quickly praised by the American side as clearing away another long-standing obstacle in the way of closer US-Soviet relations. The Afghan government expressed "open satisfaction" in a message to Moscow, and President Najibullah said on national television last night that he was "very happy" that the agreement applied "to both sides".

A spokesman for one of the rebel groups hailed the announcement. "We're for anything that will help bring a settlement," said Azim Nasseer-Zia of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of seven main guerrilla parties based in Pakistan.

Mr Baker and Mr Pankin, in a joint statement, said they agreed to stop arms deliveries to all Afghan sides. This step would be followed by a ceasefire and a cessation of arms deliveries from other sources. The announcement came during talks Mr Baker has held with Soviet and republican leaders, including a two-hour session yesterday with the foreign minister. However he and Mr Pankin did not, as expected, set a date for the Middle East peace conference, of which the two countries are cosponsors. Mr Baker said this reflected neither disagreement nor delay. The exact wording of invitations to participants had still to be worked out, and there was still a "fair amount of work in the region" over who might attend.

The agreement on arms shipments gives substance to the earlier peace agreement, brokered by the United Nations, that enabled the Soviet

troops to withdraw in 1989 after ten years of bloody war. At the time, Moscow proposed such a moratorium on arms supplies, but Washington, confident of the impending fall of the Soviet-backed government, insisted on the right to continue supplying arms to the rebels.

The Soviet foreign ministry called the agreement "a major event in Soviet-US relations". A spokesman said it was further proof of the effectiveness of joint Soviet-US action to settle regional problems. Mr Pankin also told Mr Baker about the federal and Russian leaders' interest in normalising relations with Japan, signing a peace treaty and solving the territorial problem of the northern islands.

During their talks, both sides also expressed concern over the obstacles to the United Nations inspection of nuclear weapons in Iraq. In their joint statement, Mr Baker and Mr Pankin called for free elections in Afghanistan that were not subject to manipulation or interference by anyone.

"The results of the electoral process must be respected and

fully implemented by all." They also requested the UN, with support of governments concerned, including those of Islamic countries, "to work with the Afghans to convene a credible and impartial transition mechanism". The two sides also threw their weight behind an international humanitarian assistance effort to repatriate refugees.

Leading article, page 13



Soldier's boy: a member of the Georgian national guard playing with his son in the Tbilisi parliament building yesterday, where the soldiers are protecting Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the separatist Soviet republic. Georgia yesterday denied charges by leaders of the Russian Federation that it was abusing human rights and accused

authorities in Moscow of threatening to use force against it. The Georgian foreign ministry denounced a Russian parliamentary report which said Georgia was violating minority rights. The report had suggested a state of emergency should be declared if conflicts worsened in the republic, where Mr Gamsakhurdia is under pressure to resign. (Reuters)

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rights. The report had suggested a state of emergency should be declared if conflicts worsened in the republic, where Mr Gamsakhurdia is under pressure to resign. (Reuters)

Russia braced for winter food riots

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BELGOROD

EVEN in the heart of Russia's fertile "black earth" lands, people are anticipating a hard, hungry winter. Already, most state food shops offer only pitiful supplies. Eggs, sugar, cheese, meat and vegetables are often unobtainable. The harvest is behind schedule and local authorities have just been warned that they will be fined if collective farms fail to deliver the planned grain sales to the state.

Throughout the country, the black market in food is growing, killing off hopes that private enterprise can survive its first big test. The main market in Belgorod bustles with old women in shawls, young people looking for something to fill their string bags, and housewives peering at the high prices. But a closer look at the small piles of peppers, fresh tomatoes, apples and eggs on the wooden counters shows that one market alone can never feed this city of 300,000 people. By

11am the meat market was almost empty. "Will we get through this winter?" is the question on everyone's lips. Belgorod has not known such shortages or the threat of real hunger since the battle of Kursk, when thousands of German and Soviet tanks were blown to pieces all over the surrounding fields and the city, its food supplies looted, was burned before liberation in 1943. Now people are taking no chances, and are hoarding what they can. Those with access to private plots and dachas are gathering in what they planted this summer.

People are picking berries and mushrooms, bottling fruit and preserving wild apples, going back to the old ways of laying in food for the winter, and turning cramped flats into emergency stores. The signs of breakdown are all around. Huge queues wind round the petrol stations as fuel shortages limit each driver to only 4.5 gallons. The shortage makes trips to the country plots more difficult and has hindered the harvest as tractors lie idle for lack of fuel.

In the main railway station, battered and rusty wagons, the floors full of holes, clog the tracks — evidence of the breakdown in distribution as massive amounts of grain fall onto the line and fruit rots by the ton in sidings.

The people of Belgorod are probably lucky. The warm fertile earth can be made to grow almost anything. "We'll survive," one newspaper editor said. It is in the frozen industrial centres of the north that real hardship is expected. Soviet leaders fear that discontent could spill into the streets, that the new democracy will be swept away when food riots begin. "No one will remember that it was the Communists who brought us to this state of things," one man said in Belgorod.

Sex revolution, page 12
Diary, page 12

Fear sends Serb friends underground in Zagreb

IT WOULD, a Croat acquaintance assured me, be no problem to find some Serbs willing to talk about their lives in the Croatian capital. "I have many Serb friends. We are all mixed in together: they are just like us," he said confidently.

As the days passed, his discomfiture grew. Dozens of phone calls and visits had not yielded one who was prepared to talk. At last two emerged reluctantly, on condition that their names be kept secret.

Branko, a building worker who has lived in Zagreb for 13 years, explained: "We are caught between the two sides. If we get up and boast about the fact that we are Serb, the Croats will identify us with their enemy. If the Serbs get us, they will treat us as traitors."

He is one of 55 000 Serbs in Zagreb, a city of a million.

Anne McElvoy searched the Croatian capital and found only two Serb residents willing to talk about their divided loyalties.

people. Many of them are married to Croats. Their lives are becoming increasingly strained as the conflict drives wedges between families and friends and makes outsiders of people who have lived here for decades. Before the free elections of autumn 1990, Serbs held many prominent positions in Croatia: in business, the secret police and in the notoriously corrupt town halls.

Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, abruptly changed that, ousting Serbs from their jobs, often on thin

or non-existent evidence that they had been security informers. He also appeared grudging in his tardy guarantee that the republic's 12 per cent Serb minority would have guaranteed rights of religious and cultural freedom after independence.

The result is a climate of suspicion between the two groups, forgotten animosities are revived, incantations of enmity replace the hum of coexistence. "If my daughter married a Serb," thunders a middle-aged man at the next table, "I would kill her with my own hands."

Mihail, like many workers here, is a migrant from the poorer republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Until recently, he had a well-paid job with a security firm, guarding a bank. Suddenly, the company lost its contracts and collapsed. Now he is a labourer. He used to drive the couple of hours home at the weekend to see his family. Now, with the route blocked by heavy fighting, the journey is impossible.

Both men are confused about their loyalties. "Croatia has given me a home and work," said Branko. "How can I cheer when I see the Serbs attacking a town here? But in my culture, I am one of them. I celebrate Serbian holidays. I hate to see the Croats killing Serbs." Mihail added that while he was proud to be Serb, Serbia was "another country" and he was "as scared of Slobodan Milosevic (the Serbian leader) as any Croat".

In Croatia's schoolyards, children have replaced cowboy and Indian games with mock battles between Croatian guardsmen and Serbian guerrillas. Suddenly, everyone is curious about their neighbour's origins. Branko showed me that he could make the sign of the cross in both the Serbian orthodox and the Croatian Catholic way.

He is also proud to have received his call-up papers as a reservist this week — on the Croatian side.

Serbs capture town, page 1

Carrington to visit warring republics

From GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE

AS THE fighting in Yugoslavia continues to mock the European Community's negotiating efforts, the peace conference here yesterday started to draft new constitutions to knit together the quarrelling Balkan republics.

Lord Carrington, the conference chairman, will travel to Yugoslavia on Monday to meet the Serbian and Croat presidents. But he admitted yesterday that the conference will achieve little while the killing goes on.

He said that he would suggest to Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister in charge of the EC's mediation efforts, that it sends more peace monitors. But the initial team of 50 "ceasefire monitors" is already due to grow to 200, including groups from four non-EC countries.

This week's meeting between Lord Carrington and the foreign ministers of the six Yugoslav republics has only discussed questions of procedure. The conference has appointed two committees to draft new and looser constitutions for Yugoslavia.

Lord Carrington yesterday also suggested the possibility of a "union of sovereign republics". A second committee is discussing minority rights. Belgian and Spanish judges have been chosen to complete a five-strong arbitration panel which will be asked to rule on legal issues raised in the conference.

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EC heads for widening and deepening gulf

By GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

THIS week's head-on clash between John Major and President Mitterrand of France over the future of Europe has been a watershed for the European Community.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, a gulf has been opening between "wideners", who wish to see the EC include Eastern Europe, and "deepeners", who say closer integration inside Western Europe is more urgent. By making his first hard-edged speech on Europe since becoming prime minister, Mr Major has put himself at the head of the wideners. Mitterrand leads the deepeners.

Events are strengthening Mr Major's hand. The decisive battle is scheduled to take place in the southern Dutch town of Maastricht at the beginning of December, where the EC's leaders are due to sign a treaty on political and monetary union. But divisions are now so deep that the deadline is in danger of being missed. Every discussion and decision in the EC, is overshadowed by the question of whether the community should now prepare to double, or even treble, in size.

The most important passage of Mr Major's speech in Paris on Thursday empha-

sized the link between the treaty conference due to finish at Maastricht and the debate over Eastern Europe. His speech joined in a single argument the esoteric technicalities of the EC's draft treaty and the importance of leaving the community's door open to the states orphaned by the death of the Warsaw Pact and Comecon, the East bloc trading organisation. The new treaties, the prime minister said, must not write rules which effectively slam the door on the other Europeans.

Picking up the torch for Prague, Warsaw and Budapest gives Mr Major a real European policy in a way that talking vaguely about wanting to be "at the heart of Europe" never could. His move also puts him on collision course with Mitterrand and Europe's federalists, captained by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. Mitterrand said on Wednesday that certain community countries have from the very start wanted the EC to be nothing more than a "vague free-trade area". The country he had in mind was Britain.

Paris's plans for the EC flow from its need to check and contain German wealth and power, which have done



Near and far: Mitterrand and Major are squaring up for a treaty fight at Maastricht

France so much harm in the past. The unification of Germany awakened French anxieties that Germany would be distracted from West European integration by new opportunities in the East. Mitterrand decided that the answer was to tighten European political integration and, in particular, to accelerate monetary union. He was supported by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and by M Delors.

As these ambitions have been translated into detailed treaty language, they have been diluted by the reluctance

of several EC governments to put the Franco-German dream into practice. And this summer, the difficulties of finding the lowest common denominator among the Twelve over Yugoslavia has taught tough lessons about joint foreign policies. The idea of deciding foreign policy by majority vote on all of the most anodyne issues now looks ludicrously implausible.

As the costs of German monetary union have risen, the cautious guardians of the mark at the Bundesbank have lost what little enthusiasm they had in setting a rigid

timetable for EC currencies to unite. New Dutch proposals treat European monetary union as a straightforward economic choice for governments, rather than as a political obligation. If they are accepted, as is likely, Britain's decision about joining in monetary union will be easier, although not necessarily simple. Two-speed union would make the EC an easier body for new members to join.

France has also been the leading advocate of a gradual EC takeover of the non-nuclear defence of Europe. A treaty which declared that aim would put another hurdle in the way of neutral and former Warsaw Pact states which are keen to join the EC.

M Delors is fond of calling the EC's new treaty a "marriage contract" which intending numbers will have to sign. Mitterrand now says that he is not against embracing Eastern Europe, but at the same time supports a remoulding of the EC over the next three months which would shut out all but a few new members for decades. By throwing down an open challenge to this hurried French attempt to seal the borders of the EC, Mr Major has set the agenda for the battle of Maastricht.

NEW INTEREST RATES.

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With effect from 16th September 1991

	Interest Rate % Monthly	Decreased by % Monthly	A.P.R.%
Midland Overdraft Rate	1.75	0.05	22.50
Orchard			
Overdraft	1.75	0.05	23.10
Vector			
Overdraft £250-£1,000	1.75	0.05	23.10
Meridian Overdraft			
Up to £4,999	1.60	0.05	20.90
£5,000-£9,999	1.50	0.05	19.50
£10,000+	1.40	0.05	18.10
Home Management Account	1.90	0.05	24.50

With effect from 1st October 1991

	Interest Rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R.%
Home Loan Rate	11.45	0.50	12.10
Home Improvement			
Loan Rates:			
Loans sanctioned before 26 April 1989	13.45	0.50	14.00
Loans sanctioned after 26 April 1989	11.45	0.50	12.10
House Mortgage Rate	11.45	0.50	11.90

OTHER ACCOUNTS

With effect from 16th September 1991

	Net Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest (CAR) % p.a.
— Clients Premium Deposit Account			
£25,000+	6.37	8.50	8.66
£100,000+	6.75	9.00	9.19

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Defecting diplomat raises fears of North Korea nuclear arms

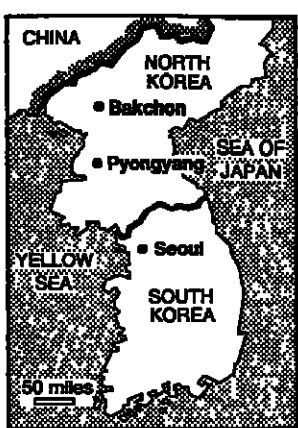
By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND NICK NUTTALL

NORTH Korea may be only one or two years away from the development of a viable nuclear weapon, according to a senior North Korean diplomat who defected yesterday to South Korea.

Ko Young Hwan told a press conference in Seoul: "North Korea has an underground nuclear research facility in Bakchon [about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, the capital] and it is one or two years from developing nuclear weapons."

North Korea's main nuclear research facility is in the Yongbyon special district, 55 miles north of Pyongyang.

It is the first time the presence of an underground nuclear facility in North Korea has been confirmed, but the diplomat's claims come as



no surprise to international nuclear proliferation experts. According to *Jane's Intelligence Review*, there is a small Soviet-supplied research reactor, a 30-megawatt reactor, a

larger 50 to 100-megawatt reactor, and a reprocessing facility. The largest reactor is not connected to a power-grid system for distributing electricity, indicating that it is intended to be used for weapons production.

Joe Bermudez, a specialist on North Korea, said he believed the country could already have the capability to produce a crude nuclear bomb. Mr Bermudez said there were great difficulties in assessing fully the nuclear threat from North Korea. The country's policy is to build industrial plant underground in military complexes hidden from reconnaissance satellites. However, he said the uranium needed to build a crude, uranium-enriched bomb of the kind dropped on Japan was available within North Korea's borders.

Mr Ko, who once acted as interpreter for Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, is the first diplomat to defect to the South since the rival states were established. He can be expected to yield important information about Pyongyang even though his most recent assignment has been in Africa.

He told the press conference it was "widely known" among North Korean diplomats that the government was close to developing nuclear weapons and some sources believe that a crude bomb has already been made. "North Korean leaders regard nuclear weapons as the last means they can resort to to protect their system, and I think they are one or two years away from having one," he said.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1985, but has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities. It committed itself this summer to allow inspections, but North Korean officials at International Atomic Energy Agency officials in Vienna on Thursday said their government was backing out of that agreement. O Chang Rim, the North Korean ambassador, told journalists that his country would not ratify the agreement until the United States withdrew nuclear weapons from South Korea.

He stated that North Korea had neither the capability of the intention to build nuclear weapons. The United States refuses to say whether it stations nuclear weapons on South Korean soil but it is generally accepted in military circles that that is the case.

Mr Ko, a first secretary at the North Korean embassy in the Congo, left his job secretly in March and arrived in Seoul in May after traveling through an unspecified third country. The South Korean government said the defection was not announced earlier because Mr Ko feared for his family left in the Congo and in North Korea. The statement said he recently changed his mind and agreed to go public.

He said he decided to defect because he was about to be recalled for making critical remarks on communism in connection with the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. "Returning home would be the end of my career," he said.

Tennis ace says lesbian lover was star-chaser

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

MARTINA Navratilova yesterday pleaded her case directly with the Texas public, telling local newspapers in Fort Worth she felt that Judy Nelson, her former lesbian lover had betrayed her "beyond words".

She said: "My crime here is stupidity, naivety and not loving Judy any more. And for that I'll have to pay."

Interviews were published the morning after a private meeting between the two, which lasted only ten minutes, had broken up and Ms Nelson had announced that settlement talks were over. "I really, truly believed Judy loved me then, and maybe now," Ms Navratilova said. "But, I wonder, if I hadn't been a famous tennis player, would she feel the same way about me?"

She said she had offered to pay Ms Nelson \$1 million (£578,000) when they split up in February. "It was a lot of money, but I guess a million doesn't go as far as it used to."

Ms Navratilova portrayed Ms Nelson as a star-chaser in love with her glamorous lifestyle in Aspen, Colorado. "If we could go out to dinner with my family or go out to dinner with Don Johnson (the television star), I know which way Judy would want to go."

She revealed that she had paid Ms Nelson's family \$1 million during the six years the couple were together, including providing department store credit cards for Ms Nelson's two sons. "They tell me they love me; on the other hand, they want all the money they can get. I am a generous person, but I won't be so generous any more."

The pre-trial hearing on Ms Navratilova's attempt to disqualify Ms Nelson's lawyer, Jerry Loftin, was expected to end yesterday and a verdict is due to be handed down in two to three weeks' time.

Preacher to pay \$10m for sex slander

From REUTER
IN NEW ORLEANS

JIMMY Swaggart, the television evangelist humbled in 1988 when he admitted having sex with a prostitute, has lost a slander suit against a rival preacher who was largely responsible for his downfall.

Marvin Gorman, a bankrupt evangelist, was awarded \$10 million (£5.8 million) by a jury which supported his claim that Mr Swaggart maliciously exaggerated Mr Gorman's own sexual affairs.

Mr Gorman, who testified that he actually only had had interrupted intercourse with one woman and fondled another, thanked not only the jury but God for the verdict. "We're very grateful, first of all, to God for his faithfulness," Mr Gorman said. "I've looked forward to this day for a long time - five years I've been waiting to tell my story."

Mr Gorman had sought \$90 million but said he was satisfied with \$10 million, which would be enough to pay off his bankrupt television ministry's creditors. He claimed that Mr Swaggart and his associates slandered him and conspired to ruin his thriving ministry in 1986 by maliciously spreading rumours that he had multiple sexual affairs, fathered illegitimate children, and was Satan incarnate.



Swaggart: conspired to ruin rival's ministry

Cap, gown and swimsuit for Miss America contest

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

AT LEAST 50 million Americans will tune in tonight to watch a lawyer, teachers for the handicapped, and a few dozen other articulate persons, discuss weighty social issues and plans for future studies. The object is to decide who wins handsome funds for further years at college. But the country has not suddenly taken a turn for the intellectual. For part of the time, the candidates for scholarship will be wearing swimsuits and the victor wins the title of Miss America 1991.

A quarter of a century since the women's movement turned its wrath on beauty contests, the old pageant, staged in Atlantic City ever since it was devised there in 1921, has turned into an uneasy hybrid, or, as some see it, an exercise in hypocrisy. To allay charges that they promote bimboism, the organisers have, over the past two decades, placed ever greater emphasis on intellectual attributes, while

clinging firmly to unenlightened notions of pulchritude. In consequence, contestants must display not only luscious figures and glamorous looks, but also an extraordinary range of interests, high academic credentials and performing talent. Last year, they talked about their work in opera, law computers, mime, motivational speaking and oncology. The title was won by Marjorie Vincent, a corporate lawyer with a special interest in domestic abuse. The previous two winners were a nurse specialising in cancer treatment and a PhD who is a veterinary surgeon.

For this year's "scholarship pageant" as officials call it, the women must talk on two social issues as well as manifesting a deep knowledge of current affairs. Many have been living on a diet of Cable News Network and some have hired scholars to brief them. Last year the favourite topics were literacy, the environment and child

abuse. Miss Tennessee, who talked about Aids, averred that "there is no easy answer" to the disease.

"The major emphasis is on the contestants and their individuality," said Leonard Horn, the chief executive, who insists Miss America is not a beauty pageant. Amy Fissel, Miss New Jersey, who hopes to go to Rutgers university if she wins the \$35,000 (£20,000) scholarship and sports car, is adamant that sex has nothing to do with it. "The swimsuit competition isn't so the gentlemen can have a good time. It's to check the physical fitness condition of the contestants," she said.

The day when an overweight pensioner could become Miss America may not be far off. In Jackson, California last July, officials in a Miss America preliminary pageant scrapped the swimsuit and performance categories and based their judgment on academic records and the community service.



Showing the way: Margaret Thatcher being escorted to a businessmen's lunch in Hong Kong yesterday by Dame Lydia Dunn, of the colony's executive council. Mrs Thatcher said democracy would have to follow economic reforms in China

Poll bolsters old guard

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

ONE-THIRD of Hong Kong's legislature has been voted into office by fewer than 23,000 privileged electors. The rest of the population is gearing up for the British colony's first full-scale election tomorrow.

Results announced yesterday gave conservative candidates a commanding majority of the 21 seats allocated to the "functional" constituencies of interest groups, such as bankers, teachers, doctors and unions. Twelve of the specialist seats were uncontested. The turnout

among the 49,000 eligible voters in the remaining functional constituencies was 47 per cent.

Opinion polls suggest that liberal groups, led by the United Democrats of Hong Kong under the chairmanship of Martin Lee, and which have consistently supported faster democratic growth in the colony, will win a large majority when the remainder of the 1.8 million electors go to the polls in direct elections for a further 18 seats.

The elections could radi-

cally alter the make-up of the formerly tame legislature. However, political commentators say that the functional constituencies will ensure a built-in majority for the government, which can further strengthen its position by appointing the remaining members of the 60-seat legislature.

● Airport committee: Britain and China announced yesterday the establishment of a consultative committee for Hong Kong's new £4.5 billion airport project. (Reuters)

Peking expels British reporter

From CATHERINE SAMPSON
IN PEKING

THE Peking correspondent for *The Independent*, Andrew Higgins, has been given 48 hours to leave China. The police gave no reason for Higgins' expulsion, but it is believed to be related to an incident in June, when police discovered that he was in possession of an internal Communist party document. Higgins, aged 33, said that he was "greatly disappointed and surprised".

It seems that Peking decided to delay Higgins' expulsion until after John Major's visit. This is the first time Peking has expelled a foreign journalist since two Americans were told to leave after the mass killings of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

The move is also seen as a warning to all 180 foreign journalists in Peking to toe the official line. Foreign journalists must seek official permission to conduct any interviews in China, or to leave Peking. Permission is frequently refused. Any internal document is considered a state secret. Chinese people are routinely warned against contact with foreigners.

In June, after Higgins was interrogated by police, the Chinese embassy in London asked *The Independent* to remove him. After discussions, it was agreed he should be allowed to continue his work in Peking.

On Thursday, the foreign ministry confiscated Higgins' press pass and told him to report to the police yesterday. He was told to leave the country by Sunday. Higgins has been working in Peking since January 1988.

● Rights study: China has sent a delegation to study human rights in the West. Four legal scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences will "observe and study the condition of American and Canadian human rights theory, form, development and practice", the academy said. The communist authorities argue that, because of China's underdevelopment, size and population, its people cannot have the same civil rights as those enjoyed in the West. (AFP)

Aquino to hold plebiscite on bases

PRESIDENT Aquino was said yesterday to have decided to call a referendum on the future of American bases in the Philippines after she failed to convince the senate to back a treaty to retain the US presence for another ten years.

Senator Leticia Shahani said after meeting the president that the referendum would coincide with next May's presidential and congressional elections. Mrs Aquino is to announce the referendum formally after Monday's final senate vote, which is certain to reject the treaty.

Murder jailing

Washington - Virgilio Paz Romero, a Cuban exile, was jailed for 12 years for his part in the 1976 murder here of Orlando Letelier, the former Chilean ambassador. Paz, aged 39, pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiring to murder. He remained at large for 15 years and was arrested in Florida last year. (AFP)

Killer swarm

McAllen, Texas - Adan Garza, aged 65, was stung 300 times by killer bees in what is believed to be the first serious attack in America by the species, which originated in Africa, officials said. Mr Garza was in a stable condition in a local hospital. Swarms of killer bees migrated from Mexico last October. (AFP)

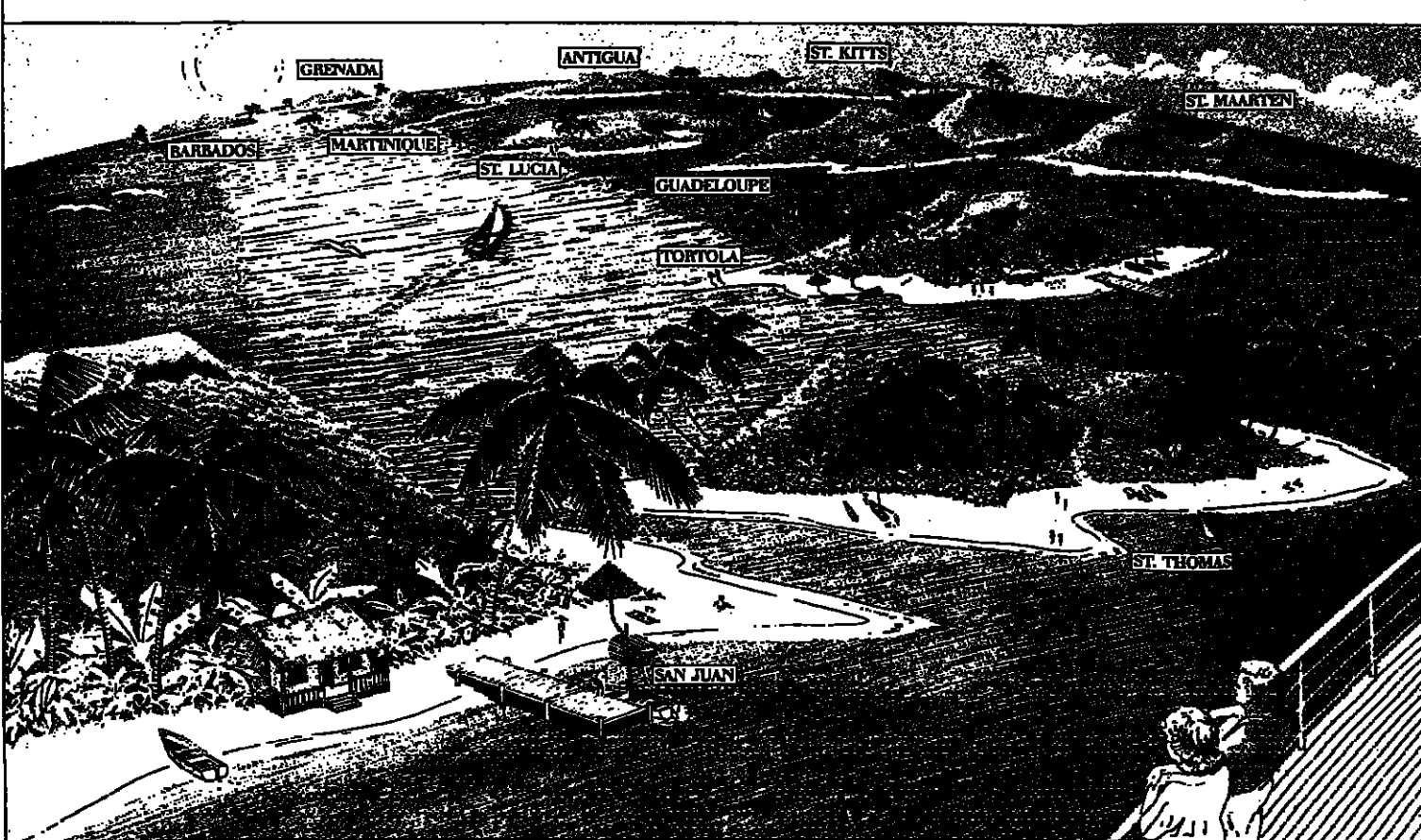
Aids babies

Singapore - Up to ten million babies could be carriers of the Aids virus by 2000, reversing progress made in child health care, according to Angele Petros-Barvazian, of the World Health Organisation. She said that doctors were expecting up to 40 million people to be HIV-positive by the end of the century. (AFP)

Vice visas

Canberra - Australian overseas missions have revised their procedures after it was found that diplomats in Malaysia helped to provide prostitutes to Australian brothels. Two employees at the high commission in Kuala Lumpur, now dismissed, accepted bribes to issue visitors' visas to at least 117 women. (AP)

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CUNARD COUNTESS

CRUISING FOR THE SUN OF IT

CUNARD IS A TRAVELER'S HOME COMPANY

Lynne Truss reviews a supine *Omnibus* on film-maker Peter Greenaway, and welcomes the *The Late Show*'s return

Art of numbing by counters

At the end of Monday night's *The Late Show* (BBC 2), we were treated to a snippet from a new commercial video. Shot in the open air, from a fixed position, it showed a hedge with a small stile in it, over which a succession of large, ragged sheep obligingly leapt and cantered, at intervals of about ten seconds. The video is designed — rather wittily — for insomniacs.

I was glad to see it, but wondered whether it would really work. Would the sight of these real sheep doing jumps honestly help any stark staring insomniac along the rocky road to Bo-Bo-Land? Lying in bed and mentally counting sheep, I find it is the monotony of the ba-hup-over-baa rhythm that ultimately numbs the senses. You imagine the same sheep doing the same jump, over and over again, and the result is coma.

But watching the insomniacs' video — even for so short a clip — had quite the opposite effect. "Eight!" one shouted, rubbing one's hands, suddenly wide awake. A long pause followed, during which no sheep appeared. "Come on, my lovely lambskins, let's be having you." A reluctant beast trotted across the screen, amid grateful cheers from insomniacs everywhere. "Nine!"

Watching last night's *Omnibus* (BBC 1) about the film-maker Peter Greenaway, it suddenly occurred to me that "Do you count sheep, Mr Greenaway?" might have been a rather clever interview question. Fans of his films will have noticed that he unashamedly returns time and again to the tension between the abundance of Nature (on the one hand) and the arbitrariness of man-made systems and taxonomies — organising the world in terms of numbers, days of the week, letters of the alphabet,

colours of the spectrum. He is famous for it. People write these about his arcane use of the number 92 (the atomic number of uranium), and I believe a Greenaway Help Group has started up somewhere, for people who come out of the cinema shaking their heads, saying, "I liked it, but I didn't understand about all the fruit."

Having always been fascinated by his films (though not by fruit), I

'Might not the Greenaway style be traceable to wakeful infant night-times spent focusing on the image of sheep?'

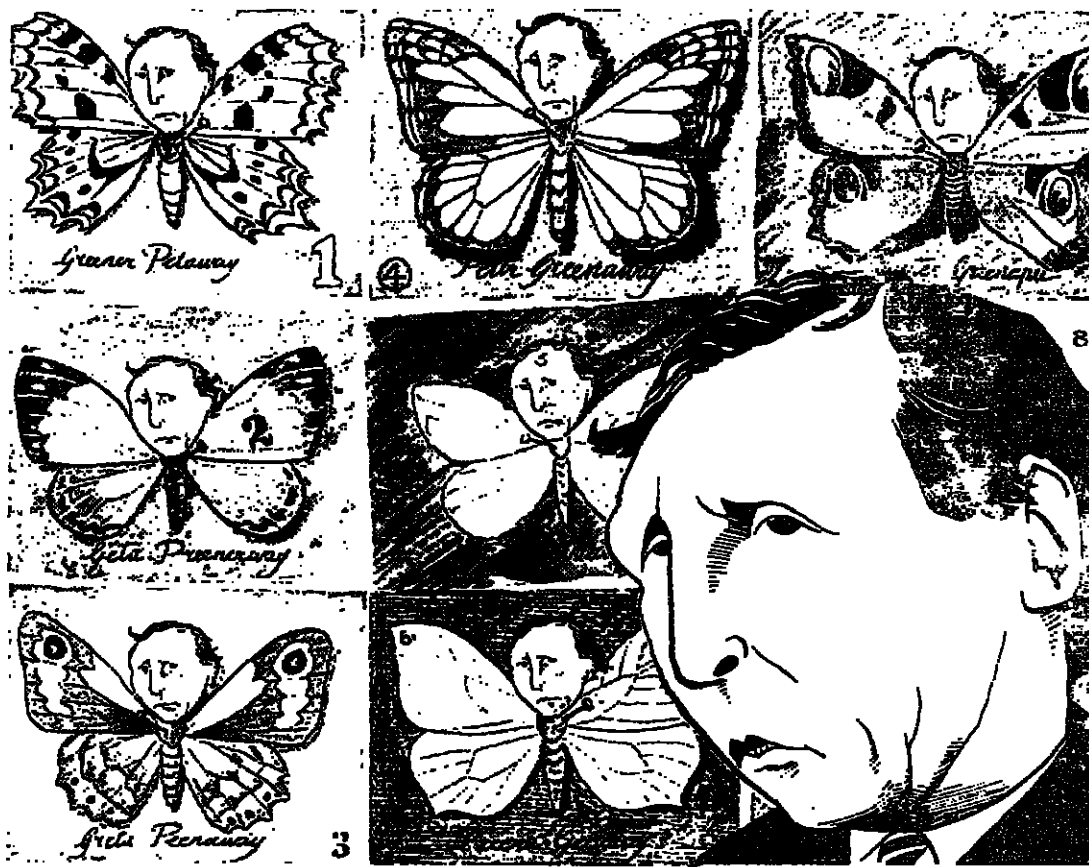
interviewed him myself a couple of years ago, and asked whether he had ever been a collector of insects. He said yes; in fact, his collection (no doubt beautifully organised) had been sustained well into adulthood, and had grown to rather unmanageable proportions. So it might have been worthwhile for *Omnibus* to pose the sheep-counting question. Might not the whole Greenaway style be traceable to wakeful infant night-times spent focusing his intellect on the mental image of sheep with big red numbers trotting through French classical landscapes, while humming proto-Michael Nyman music?

To be honest, any question posed by this gorgeous but supine *Omnibus* film would have been

welcome. At the beginning, we were told that Greenaway had been invited by *Omnibus* to "answer his critics" — particularly on the charge that his films (*The Draughtsman's Contract*, *A Zed and Two Noughts*, *Belly of an Architect*, *Drowning by Numbers*, *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*) are visually rich and terribly clever, yet have the emotional depth of a Whitaker's Almanack. But it became rapidly clear that this "answer his critics" stuff was actually an excuse for a frankly one-sided treatment. It was arts-programme shorthand for "Whoops, we forgot to ask him any questions."

Did he answer the charge of emotional inertia? Not really, no. What he said (and he has said it before) was that, when you go to the National Gallery and look at Renaissance master-works, you enjoy them for all sorts of qualities other than the ability to make you laugh or cry. The implication was that films can be regarded in the same light as paintings. You can respect them, find them mysterious, admire the craftsmanship and composition; you can even go back and look at them again, but you don't have to be moved by them. As if to clarify this easy point, *Omnibus* took us to the National Gallery and showed us Greenaway peering at famous canvases, and governing his emotions, as if to say, "Watch my films like this."

But surely an arts programme ought to examine such an interesting claim? The difficulty with Peter Greenaway's work is that it is packed with so many arcane references (known only to himself) that he has become a self-appointed keeper of the keys. Like the omniscient Prospero in his new *Prospero's Books*, Greenaway is master of his own conceptual universe — and doesn't he know it.



But when he says that, for example, the colour green is significant in *Belly of an Architect* because green is, of course, the colour of decaying flesh, should he be allowed to get away with it? Shouldn't somebody point out — if only for argument's sake — that green contains other, quite opposite, symbolic meanings too, such as fields and springtime and rebirth (not to mention Irish nationalism and Fairy Liquid)?

Talking of rebirth, it was good to have *The Late Show* back this week, complete with a new set of opening credits, a new studio, and a slightly more up-beat feel. If only somebody would stick another shilling in the meter, the viewer might experience less of a sensation that the transmission is taking place illicitly, without the knowledge of the management. There is always a nagging memory, when watching *The Late Show*, of those old existentialist *Wednesday Play* scripts in which people have been

locked in a darkened, spotlight television studio after home-time, and are not sure whether to shout for help.

But there was some good solid stuff on *The Late Show* this week, especially the discussion on Wednesday following Granada's wash-out drama-documentary, *Thatcher: The Final Days*. Special guest was Sir Geoffrey Howe, which was rather a coup; a bit like getting a Plantagenet king along to discuss Shakespeare's histories.

Sir Geoffrey courteously assured the programme's terrible producer Ray Fitzwalter that the script had been stiff with inaccuracies, but was strangely treated as though his opinion (surely a privileged one, in the circumstances) was only as good as everyone else's.

One of the less convincing arguments from the supporters of drama-documentary was that

viewers are so clever these days that they don't trust anything they see. So that's all right, then. Presumably we are pictured sitting at home watching television, nudging one another occasionally just to say, "I'm still not believing any of this, are you?" "No, I'm not." "Jolly good. Let's watch some more." Is this true? And if it is, doesn't it rather negate the point of making television in the first place?

Struggling to get a word in edgewise, Sir Geoffrey averred that, on the contrary, the persuasive power of television dramatisations was rather strong — so strong, in fact, that he had found himself gullibly believing conversations in *Thatcher: The Final Days*, even though he knew for a certainty that other scenes were bogus. A pretty unanswerable criticism, I'd say. So it was rather a surprise when he was accused of being an inexperienced television-watcher, and therefore unqualified to judge.

Cinders aflame with fun

DANCE

Cinderella Mayflower, Southampton

HOW alarming for the young Moscow Ballet La Classique, arriving for its first British tour, to find that its scenery had been delayed. At the last moment, when it was preparing to make shift with sets borrowed from British companies, its own arrived and the opening went ahead as planned.

The relief was deserved, because this company has taken much care over presentation, even bringing its own musicians, the Moscow Radio Orchestra, who gave a persuasive account of Prokofiev's *Cinderella* with Vladimir Bogorad conducting. The score is adapted somewhat to suit the purposes of the choreographer, Viktor Zhitinov, with some cuts and transpositions. Familiar tunes turn up in unfamiliar contexts, but the changes are so smoothly done that they almost pass unnoticed.

The court ball that constitutes Act II is where Zhitinov shows real originality, and imagination. The Prince is rescued from the bland anonymity of most productions by being given a comic father accompanied always by two ponderous ministers, and the guests, mostly in chic short skirts and fluffy hats, make a caricatured but lively background for the principals' moonstruck romance.

Cinderella's stepsisters and their mother have an alarmingly voluptuous trio in this scene. These are not really ugly sisters; in fact, Anastasia Vassiliev and Albina Dmitrieva look devastatingly pretty, but they are shown as endearingly naughty, and as selfish as their glamorous mother (Tatiana Guenkel).

The company's director, Alexander Prokofiev, clearly has a good eye for a dancer, as you would expect from the former teacher of such young stars as Mukhammedov, Fedotchev, Liepa and Taranda. Wednesday's *Cinderella* was the expressive and appealing Olga Toziyakov, with Vladimir Karakuliev as her splendidly dashing Prince, a dancer of rare power and stamina. He showed a touch of humour, too, in his search through Spain and Arabia for the owner of the lost slipper.

The fact that he needed a heavy prompt from the Fairy Godmother before recognising her may make one doubt whether they did live happily ever after, but they certainly made a handsome couple as the curtain fell.

The tour takes in ten cities over 11 weeks, and also includes *The Nutcracker*.

JOHN PERCIVAL



A blessing in a bleak production: Rudi Davies as the falsely accused Hermione, with Trevor Eve as Leontes

Winter of our discontent

THIS plain and unexciting production conveys little of the pain, mystery and joy of the play, and perhaps this is placing David Thacker's achievement too high: his production suggests none of these qualities.

By no means all the performances are bad, or even poor, and of vital importance to sustaining early interest is the playing by Rudi Davies of Hermione, the Sicilian queen falsely accused of adulterous dalliance with her husband's best friend. She wears a costume, headpiece and gravity of expression that make her look like one of Henry VIII's executed wives; her voice sounds real and her smiles and hand movements look real: blessings where so much around her lacks life.

Then there is Richard Cordery as the "good Camillo", the Sicilian counsellor who scampers off to Bohemia with Polixenes, the man his

THEATRE
The Winter's Tale
Young Vic

master has accused of the adultery. Once in Bohemia, Camillo reorganises the state, thereby making himself indispensable, but switches sides again to return to Sicily and marry Paulina, the old battleaxe whose husband made the mistake of becoming a bear's breakfast. I cannot recall a production of this play where the character of Camillo grew thus in my mind.

Cordery plays him entirely properly in the traditional manner of honesty and wise guidance. Yet because he, too, sounds and looks really, truthfully horrified — first incredulously and then so far forgetting himself as to sit in the presence of his king — and

because he is believable in the role, the character becomes a focus of interest. So much so that to while away some interminable passage of jealousy or a clowning or remorse, I deconstructed the play to its hidden essence: old Camillo's devious route to the marriage of his dreams, indeed a tale of winter's love.

Trevor Eve plays Leontes, mouthing jealousies under a blue spot. Like the lighting, his emotions are on the surface, all outer gesture, bent knees, hunched back, head thrust forward, hands arched: his dry voice does not plummet to deep sonorities of emotion; he does not sound right. Three hours later, for this is a long production, Eve's voice does hint at the capture of a life renewed but this is a late, late show of feeling.

Thacker sets the play in the central circle of this open-stage theatre, a tiresome architectural quirk that per-

haps has now run its course. In an open-stage *Winter's Tale* at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, the statue of Hermione, was placed on a revolving plinth so that all the audience could see her lips move. She looked like something for sale at Sotheby's. Lacking a revolve, the Young Vic denies half its audience a sight of Hermione's face. My half, what's more. Jolly japes such as the clog-dancers at the shepherds' feast — a nod to *The Tracksons of Oxyrhynchus* across the road — work well in an arena. Almost everything else works worse.

In a dull production this play becomes an antiquated tale about duty to tyrannous fathers and the splendour of noble birth: nothing we should burden our modern minds with. It is a crime to treat a complex, rewarding play so roughly.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE: UNITED STATES

Outposts of adventure

Standards on the Midwest stage are far from middling, reports Holly Hill

Amidst the ill winds buffeting American arts, Chicago appears a sea of tranquillity. Its symphony concerts are over-subscribed, and Steppenwolf has opened a new \$8.28 million (£4.81 million) theatre. While the United States has lost its oldest not-for-profit theatre and four more in the past year, and ten regional theatres are teetering on the abyss, Chicago's 66-year-old Goodman Theatre is looking for a larger space, and the Interplay Theatre has won Peter Shaffer's collaboration to produce a four-year cycle of all his plays.

One distinctive quality of Chicago and other Midwest productions is the degree of multi-culturalism. At Wisdom Bridge Theatre, the title role in John Carille's stylish adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* was played with fragile elegance by black actor Harry J. Lennix, and the Goodman production of *The Visit* starred black actress Rosalind Cash as Claire Zachanassian. And among five one-acts at Chicago's Off Off Loop Festival, the best efforts were Latino. Edwin Sanchez's *Fatty Tissue* was a thoughtful comedy about a weight-obsessed woman and her refrigerator. La Barraca '90 presented *La Petenera*, combining poems by Lorca with flamenco. America's only Shaw Festival is taking root in nearby Milwaukee, led by Montgomery Davis. His staging of *Saint Joan* and Joe Hanreddy's of *The Doctor's Dilemma* were as good as anything I have seen at Canada's celebrated Shaw

Festival. The radiant Joan of Flora Coker would be remarkable anywhere. So would the Dr Stockman in *An Enemy of the People* and Orson in *Taruffe* portrayed by Randall Duk Kim, a Hawaiian who co-founded the American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Admired for his Pericles and Trinculo at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Kim left New York 15 years ago to help create APT, the only American rep devoted exclusively to the classics.

Some 6,300 hours of local volunteer labour created the handsome APT outdoor amphitheatre, and audiences have grown impressively. But, frustrated in their dreams of developing a daring repertoire and a training academy, Kim and co-founding artistic director Anne Ochigrosso are departing after this season, leaving an idealistic legacy that deserves fulfilment.

Stronger than ever in its 28th season, the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis has three current productions: *Death of a Salesman* with a black Loman family, a riotous *Man Who Came to Dinner*, and artistic director Garland Wright's darkling version of *The Illusion*. The joy of visiting the Guthrie is watching the resident company strut their stuff — notably Richard Iglewski, going from an august John of Gaunt and ribald Falstaff in last season's Shakespeare histories to a kind of Puck with tantrums as Sheridan Whiteside.

Aaron's voice lay somewhere between Stevie Wonder and Alexander O'Neill: trained in the church, he added the character and passion to songs that might otherwise have rolled off a production-line.

Although the first song made an ominous opening, its dense mass of bass and thick chords was so loud that the building trembled. The show then settled into a stop-go pattern of ballads and jacks, swinging hits such as "Teddy's Jam", "Groove Me" and "Do Me Right". Even the most jittery of these up-tempo numbers had a melodic element, again provoking a reminder of Stevie Wonder's early 1970s recordings: gritty, yet still holding pop-market appeal.

The group risked losing momentum with the frequency of slow songs, but this danger was obviated by the vocals of Aaron Hall. His stage antics may have descended into sleaze at times, but he proved himself to be one of the few convincing soul singers working in a contemporary idiom.

DAVID TOOP



The Guthrie's Richard Iglewski, with Brenda Wehle

JOHN PERCIVAL

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THE ESC MAKES SHAKESPEARE THE HOTTEST TICKET IN WORLD THEATRE

THE SUNDAY TIMES

On their return, reporters crowded round and Shaw agreed to make a short announcement. He slowly mounted the marble staircase, turned at its summit, and crossed his arms. Everyone waited. "Stalin," he said, "has splendid black moustaches." Then he went to bed, leaving everyone seething below.

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ROCK
Guy Hammersmith
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FOR most British music-lovers, the term "new jack swing" probably suggests a piece of automobile repair equipment. But for a gifted New Yorker named Teddy Riley, this obscure phrase must conjure images of vast sums of money. New jack swing is his invention. The basic components are a shuffling rhythm, seductive chord sequences of the soul ballad variety, gospel-influenced vocals and very loud drums. With that, the 25-year-old Riley has conquered American radio and found prestigious production work.

Guy is his group: three vocalists backed by four keyboard players, a hip-hop DJ, backing singers and dancers. Riley tends to receive the adulation, but the star here was Aaron Hall who, with his brother Damion, join Riley on the front line.

Clifford Longley

Schism may now be a necessary sin.
The Church of England should split

The Church of England will split. So it should. That is the natural outcome of the current irresistible force against immovable object collision over female ordination. Energy spent trying to stop such a split should be diverted to making the best of it. Ecclesiastical civil war can then give way to ecumenical goodwill between the separated parts.

Until the Archbishop of York, George Austin, promoted the idea last week, formal division of the church had been rejected by all church leaders as a fate worse than death. So awful was the prospect that the mere mention of it is used as a knock-down argument by every side.

It is not so awful. Two-thirds of the Church of England wants women priests. One third does not. Why should the one-third forever deny to the two-thirds what they want? And why should the two-thirds coerce the one-third to stay in a church which, they believe, is about to betray its title deeds? This would only make sense if holding the church in one piece were an absolute objective, taking precedence over all others, for instance if Anglicans strictly believed that outside the church, there is no salvation.

Anglican history will show whether this belief in unity at all costs is the essence of Anglican identity. The answer is no. On the contrary, the origins of the national established church in England — dis-

regarding the matter of the king's divorce — placed truth above unity. The Church of England broke from Rome in the 16th century, and has so far refused to repair the break, because it thought Rome had deviated from the Gospel and the true apostolic faith. For similar though less spectacular reasons, the Church of England has not yet mended its break with Methodism.

Both sides in the current Anglican debate believe that Christian truth is at stake now. They belong to a church whose proud boast, as an institution still standing separate from Roman Catholicism and more recently from the Free churches, is the primacy of truth over unity. The issue now put to trial is whether they really mean it, or whether these past and present "stands for truth" were merely covers for expediency, cowardice, snobbery or worse.

The debate over female ordination is usually presented as a clash between liberals and conservatives. Such appearances deceive. At a glance, it is liberal to want women priests, conservative not to. But to insist on holding the church together come what may, making church unity paramount over all other factors, is a profoundly conservative position. And that is the position universally taken by advocates of female ordination. In order not to split the church, they are even prepared to countenance an extraordinary nonsense of no-go parishes and dioceses, where lawfully ordained Anglican priests are banned because they are female.

The liberal's favourite argument is that the opponents of women

priests are "resisting change", suggesting a wimpish fear of anything new. Yet splitting the church would be a change and a half. In this respect it is the liberals who are fearfully attached to things as they are, while the conservatives — at face value — are thinking radically.

Or seeming to: they have hardly begun to take their own thinking seriously. They have been more concerned to be seen to be thinking about it, to frighten their opponents with the ultimate deterrent. And the Archbishop of York's exercise in schism-rattling last weekend was no different. What he really wants is to stop the two-thirds having women priests, so imposing his conscience at the expense of theirs, causing endless frustration and dismay to the growing band of women convinced they have valid vocations. It is when pressure starts to lead to coercion of conscience that alarm bells in the church should begin to ring. Both sides are now applying so much pressure that coercion is inevitable. Many churchmen and women feel they can no longer hold on to what they believe.

Whatever the decision about women priests next year, this distortion can only worsen. And the cause is the insistence upon holding the Church of England together. What a relief it would be to consciences on both sides if each could just get on with what it deeply believes is right!

Schism is a dirty word in the ecclesiastical lexicon. It is a sin to divide the church or to keep it divided. All the prayers for Christian unity which trip off the tongue every week and year are prayers to be saved from that sin. But deep in the Anglican soul — for it was the rationale of the English Reformation no less — is the conviction that sometimes schism is a necessary sin for the sake of conscience. And the threshold of necessity is not so high. The Methodists and the United Reformed Church were both brutally brushed aside when they asked for recognition of their orders a decade ago. If there is any pretence at consistency, the present case for tolerating disunity is at least as weighty.

Sides in deep sorrow, the two sides in the Church of England should now admit that they will never agree, and cannot even agree to disagree while within the same institution. Each side must call an end to the solemn emphasis on the sincerity and depth of its own convictions, and stop ignoring the equal convictions on the other side. It has been a scandalously uncharitable display, of which both sides have been equally guilty. Remaining locked in a single institution obliges each side to fight for a policy that it knows will distress consciences on the other side.

If either side wins outright, it can be only at the unacceptable cost of over-riding the deep conviction of others. When that point is reached, schism is the Christian way out.

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Can we cut the mustard? This is the daily angst for those of us with a product that has to come out tomorrow, rain or shine, inspiration or torpor. You cannot have a newspaper with blank pages, though some of us would find them handy for the anagrams in the crossword. But what has it got to do with mustard? There was no difficulty or skill in reaping the mustard with a pair of nail-scissors when we used to grow the stuff with cress on damp blotting paper, as an exercise in botany, and to supplement the school bread and margarine. As with many catchphrases, once you stop to listen to what you are saying, it turns out to be old, and as clear as mustard.

The best bet is that it goes back to the beginning of the century, when the mustard was slang for the main attraction or the genuine article. Here is the earliest example I can find, in a short story by O. Henry called "Heart of the West", published in 1907: "I looked around and found a proposition that exactly cut the mustard." At that time "up to mustard", meaning up to standard or up to the mark, was also idiomatic. Mustard as a symbol of excellence has faded from our vocabulary, but cutting the mustard still flourishes. Here is an example of the phrase from a recent book: "All four Beatles cut the mustard as panellists on BBC-TV's *Juke Box Jury*."

As with so much slang, the phrase acquired low-life and copulatory connotations. Here is

a recent piece about Hyde Park by Alexander Frater: "A lady from New Zealand expressed dismay at the sight of a pair of lovers energetically cutting the mustard in broad daylight." And here is a review of the film *Coming Home* by Rhoda Koenig in *The Spectator*: "It puts its ideological point with admirable concision: pacifists are good in bed; militarists can't cut the mustard." "Too old to cut the mustard" is generally applied to men in modern slang, and refers to sexual impotence. The mustard phrase is often abbreviated in American slang to "can't cut it" or "can't back it". This roughly explains how we have inherited this run phrase. It does not explain why. What is the attraction of the hot condiment to English phrase-making. Mustard with mutton? the sign of a glutton. "What say you to a piece of beef and mustard?" This ever thus with simple folk — an accepted wit has but to say "Pass the mustard," and they roar their ribs out. Can the mustard attraction have something to do with British barbarism about cookery as a dramatic art? The starring role of a grain of mustard seed in the parable in St Matthew has done something to imprint mustard in the national word-box. "Mustard is the littlest of all seeds, but it grows up into the tallest garden-yerb o them as, a right tree, at the birds o the lift comes an birds in its branches."

The name mustard is peculiarly un-English. The original

Greek name was *sinape*, and sinapism is still the name for a mustard plaster in English. The Romans introduced it to Britain, and it was popular as a spice to disguise the pungence or purlence of ancient meat.

The name mustard came in from the French habit of mixing the mess with mustard as early as the 13th century. I think it sounded comic and Frenchified in English. At any rate, a number of jocular mustard proverbs, now mercifully obsolete, sprang up. "After meat, mustard" is getting things in the wrong order, and too late. "As a cat loves mustard" means you dislike something quite a lot. To kill a man for a mess of mustard is to have no very important grounds for doing so.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Tewkesbury had the reputation for making the hottest mustard in England. Hence the obsolete proverb that a grouch looked as though he lived on Tewkesbury mustard. *Henry IV, Part 2*: "His wit is as thick as Tewkesbury mustard."

Mustard took off in a big way in the 19th century, when Colman's of Norwich started marketing yellow mustard in tins for the masses. Jessica Mitford: "Perhaps I could get a job as a maid in somebody's house. But I'd never cut the mustard at this occupation." When you speak a language as old and complex as English, you are talking in an archaeological museum. All you have to do is listen to yourself.

Peter Millar discovers that Russians are finding it hard to distinguish liberty from licence

The new playboys of the Western world

In Russia these days you can tell a book by its cover, or at least a magazine. Blazoned across the front of Moscow's smartest tabloid is a couple kissing amid flames that proclaim "some like it hotter". Above is the proud title: *Kapital*, a newspaper for rich people. Now that glasnost is no longer just a slogan, Russians have discovered the link between two old taboos: sex and money.

Moscow entrepreneurs have rediscovered the oldest formula in business: to make money, you have to sell, and nothing sells better than sex. For the moment, there is little cheap pornography but in a society in which entrepreneurial skills were considered immoral, and sex was simply procreation for the proletariat, the new freedoms mean an addiction to style, a surrender to seduction. The cover of *Kapital* indicates the tone: a sexy flirtation with things that for Russians are dangerously different, such as a parody of Henry Ford and his spiritual heir Leo Iacocca. This is part of a series entitled "Heroes of Capitalist Labour", a merciless dig at vanished values.

Kapital sells about 100,000 copies a month. It is put together at a temporary address in a Moscow side street, but the publishers plan to move to better offices next year. *Kapital* is only one of dozens of new periodicals that have sprung up to take financial advantage of the

disappearance of the censor.

These publications are just the most visible symptom of the new mood in Russia. Their message is simple: if greed is now good, lust is a must. These embryonic Russian publishers have discovered not only that they can use sex to sell words, but that they can sell words about sex. The latest edition of *Nuances* includes an article on female masturbation. The runaway bestseller on the impromptu bookstands in Moscow's underpasses is *Master of Love*, a Soviet *Joy of Sex*, complete with explicit, but tasteful, photographs, illustrating a wide range of positions to a nation that used to think variety was something Westerners found in supermarkets.

These publications are not all fruits of the post-putsch, post-communist Russia. Most were already up and running earlier this year. *Master of Love* was printed in 1990, but in Tallinn, Estonia, which was already well on its way to Scandinavian-style morality a year ago. The coup was a reaction against this, a last gasp by the old



'A paper for rich people'

guard, who were as horrified by sexual liberation as by the abandonment of communist orthodoxy. To them, sex and the market economy were inextricable.

They were right. While the world has watched open-mouthed the events of the political revolu-

tion in Russia, there has been little attempt to understand and sympathise with the real shock to the average Russian: the social revolution, the opening of a lifetime's hard-learned rules. The average man in the Moscow street is punch-drunk on a new permissiveness that extends to every aspect of his life: private, economic and moral.

The result is that the heady draught of freedom is blurring moral frontiers. It used to be a crime to buy something at one price and sell it for more; it is now called speculation. Now it is not only legal, but approved; it is called business. Under these circumstances, and with a crumbling currency, ordinary men and women can no longer see the moral difference between a small businessman selling Western cigarettes or jeans, and the "find the lady" card-sharp or the hard-currency hotel hooker.

Inge, an attractive brunette in her early 20s, is of mixed Latvian-Russian parentage and comes from a good family of former communists in Smolensk, one of

the more tolerable towns in the sprawling west Russian provinces. She has been studying art in Moscow and decided she could exploit glasnost by selling her watercolours to the tourists who throng the Arbat. One painting of Red Square can be sold to an American for \$40, the equivalent of more than two months' wages.

It seemed she had found her vocation until a customer asked her to go to bed with him and paid her \$100 for two hours. Now she is on the game in the Intourist hotel's hard-currency beer bar. "I don't do it too often; but twice a week and I have made more money than most people see in a year. My father thinks I sell a lot of paintings. If he knew the truth, he'd kill me." She worries about AIDS but relies chiefly on the condoms she can buy with her dollars and on "being choosy", which in reality means little more than exercising ancient Russian racism: "I don't do it with Arabs, blacks or Chinese."

The expanding media market is exploiting even AIDS (SPID in Russian), with *SPID-info*, a dedicated tabloid monthly that blends common-sense advice with reviews of Sylvester Stallone films. Its advertisement shows a grandchild clutching in relief at a communist kindergarten magazine while his infant grandson flips through *SPID-info*. Russia is suffering culture shock, but the young are rarely to live dangerously.

Heveningham's last chance

Marcus Binney on the need for full restoration of a national treasure



This 18th-century masterpiece must not be allowed to fall to profiteering developers who will abandon the restoration

Michael Heseltine is in honour bound to resolve the dreadful plight of Heveningham Hall (the name is easier to say than spell — it is pronounced "Heveningham"). The news that the house is in the hands of the receivers, Cork Gully, and that all restoration work has been stopped confirms the fears of conservationists over nearly ten years.

All this time, DoE ministers have been positively Panglossian. Less than a month ago, Lady Blatch issued a statement dismissing criticisms and expressing herself happy with progress. English Heritage was quoted as confident that the work would be completed to its satisfaction.

The tragedy is that Heveningham has already been saved for the nation once, at a time when it was even more difficult to make out the case for keeping great houses and their contents together. In 1970, after a sustained campaign, the government agreed to purchase Heveningham, 400 acres of park and woodland, and the exquisite furniture designed by James Wyatt for his state rooms.

With Robert Adam, Wyatt was the presiding genius of English interior decoration, and the state rooms at Heveningham are of the calibre of those at Syon and Osterley — a match for the finest in the world. Heveningham's importance was enhanced by the survival (except in the dining room) of all the original paint finishes and decorative paintwork.

Mr Heseltine's decision to sell the house to a private buyer, the

Iraqi businessman Mr A. Al-Ghazzi (or, as it now seems, a Swiss holding company) was a gamble, though it was clearly taken in good faith. Before that, Heveningham had been very successfully run and opened by the National Trust, the gardens had been well tended and furniture and paintings had been loaned back by the Vaneck family. But the Trust was understandably unwilling to take long-term responsibility without an endowment, and this the government would not, at the time, provide.

Evidence of serious problems at Heveningham came with the repeated hiring and firing (or resignation) of distinguished architects, including Donald Insall and Charles Brown. Following the dreadful fire which gutted the east wing at the house, destroying Wyatt's library and the pink drawing room, five years of sustained pressure was needed before restoration began. Meanwhile the original furniture left on loan had been snatched back in desperation by English Heritage, though the slender legs of Wyatt's sideboards had been snapped off and tied up like bundles of faggots to make

them easier to move. Thieves broke in and prized the magnificent marble chimneypiece from the dining-room wall, and one of the splendid Waterford chandeliers in the ballroom crashed to the ground as it was being rehung.

In retrospect it is clear that Mr Heseltine should have imposed much stronger covenants, or better still sold the house on a 99-year full-repairing lease. However, one covenant gave the government the right of first refusal if the house came back on the market within ten years. That clause now has just three months to run may be one reason why the Bank of Kuwait has put the holding company into receivership.

If the government fails to exercise its option, the likelihood is that Heveningham will become the victim of the ghastly planning-gain syndrome that has put needless question-marks over great houses such as 15th-century Herstmonceux Castle and baroque Burley on the Hill. Speculators will put down a deposit and buy the house in the hope that planning permission will be

obtained not just for change of use to hotel or conference centre, but that lucrative permissions will be granted for golf courses, club-houses and chalets. If such applications are granted, they will not carry out any restoration, but simply put the house back on the market at a higher price.

Many forms of alternative use for Heveningham itself would be positively dangerous to the house. The state rooms are of museum quality, and intensive occupation of the rooms above would be an unacceptable risk to the superb decoration of the state rooms, quite apart from the problem of introducing means of escape.

As Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine owes the contents of Heveningham, and I believe it is his clear duty to revive the house as an entity. Then he can explore whether a suitable private buyer can be found, or whether Heveningham should be preserved as a show house, perhaps with limited residential use of the upper floors.

The two principal candidates to run the house are English Heritage and the National Trust. Lord Montagu, chairman of English

Heritage, has championed his organisation as an alternative to the National Trust which does not require massive endowments, and the acquisition of Heveningham just before he retires would see the fulfilment of one of his ambitions. The National Trust's regional director in East Anglia, Merlin Watkinson states that "The Trust would not hesitate to accept it if it had the wherewithal to maintain it", but this time the Trust would need still endowment.

After looking at the conflicting reports of the quality of the restoration work, the Trust's view is that internally there is little damage that cannot be put right, and that the standard of work in the library is good. However, like many visitors to Heveningham in August, the Trust found the state of the gardens and grounds a disgrace.

As environment secretary, Mr Heseltine has on heritage matters a record second to none. Now he must step in with characteristic swiftness to resolve Heveningham's problems. He took a calculated risk in selling the house. If he decides to act now, he will be taking a still greater risk with his reputation.

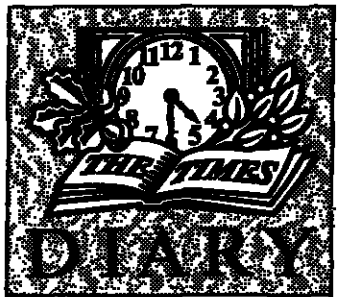
Gulags want happy campers

"SEND them to Siberia" was a phrase that once struck fear into many a stout heart. But the words could take on a friendlier meaning with the development — taking British advice — of the land of the gulags into the world's latest tourist attraction.

From the glens of Scotland to the frozen wastes of Siberia is but a short hop, believes Nikolai Bondarchuk, a Russian deputy leaving a delegation that has been visiting Britain as the guest of Highlands and Islands Enterprise this month. There will of course be problems, concedes Bondarchuk, through an interpreter. "Language is a barrier," he says, "and the weather fluctuates wildly, but we can offer a wide range of events. We can do whatever you ask."

Not quite everything. Ivanka Maszczak, who spent seven years in a Siberian labour camp and now lives in London, says: "They can never wipe away the memories. Siberia will always be tainted, but it is certainly cold enough for winter sports. Many froze to death in the camps." Maszczak, now aged 66, was sent to the camp as a member of the Ukrainian underground. "I was sentenced to hard labour. It is insensitive to try to exploit Siberia for commercial gain. People should go there not for holidays, but to pay homage to the people who died in the camps."

Highlands and Islands Enterprise admits there is still a stigma attached to Siberia. "But it did not seem right to discuss the gulags. We talked about the similarities between the regions." At least northern Scotland, thankfully, remains free of holiday camps policed by redcoats. But what price the Ivan Denisovich theme park?



As a packed Albert Hall wipes away a patriotic tear at the last night of the Proms, at least one performer will have seen it all before. Sidonie Goossens, the harpist who will accompany soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones through "The Last Rose of Summer", a three-minute Victorian folksong, will be 92 next month, making her by far the oldest performer ever to appear at the Proms. Her first appearance at the Proms was in 1921. John Drummond, Radio 3's controller, says her performance will be "a moment of calm before the pandemonium."

Raising standards

THE ideological battlelines in the Tory party are being drawn in advance of the general election. Next week will see the launch of a movement dubbed "The Standard Bearer", a Majorite faction of Tory candidates who are expected to eclipse the Thatcherite. No Turning Back Group as the main backbench forum for policy ideas in the next parliament.

The group comprises ten candidates standing at the next election, whose average age is 34 and who are defending combined majorities of 155,000. Many have already been tipped for ministerial office. Members include David Willetts, the director of the Centre for Policy Studies, Alan Duncan, whose home in Gayfere Street was

used as John Major's campaign headquarters, David Lidington, a former special adviser to Douglas Hurd, Charles Hendry, a former special adviser to Tony Newton and David Faber, a grandson of Harold Macmillan.

To increase the loyalist feel, the Standard Bearers will hold their regular meetings in the room in Duncan's house from which Major's leadership campaign was run. Their first policy document, *Bearing the Standard*, appears next week, and a textual analysis shows more than a passing similarity to the prime minister's speech about Europe last Thursday.

D'ye ken this?

PURE Rabbinic Burns dialect will be heard at the Scottish National Party conference for the first time next week. The Scots and Gaelic dialects are incomprehensible to anyone from south of the Tweed — and to more than a few north of it — but Alex Salmond MP, the SNP leader, writes in the conference handbook: "This 57th annual national convene comes no longer before a general election, tybe outcom o

One could say:
It's a beautiful,
bright moonlit
night.



whilk will gie mukill heize as tae whether or no Scotland can brak out o the whirling o dule o the 1980's, tae twin our kintra's freedom in the 1990's."

Apparently this means that the general election will substantially determine whether Scotland can break out of the cycle of despair of the 1980s.

Salmond "is adamant it is not a gimmick. That's the way most of our constituents speak," he says, but he confesses to having used a translator when he put pen to paper.

"Safety in our cities" is the theme of an international police conference at the Barbican on Wednesday. Police chiefs from Europe, China, Japan and America will descend on London for the day under the chairmanship of Sir Stanley Bailey, the Chief Constable of Northumbria. Until recently, one might have thought there was not much Bailey could have taught his counterparts from Detroit and Paris. After events in Newcastle and North Shields over the past few days, his choice as chairman seems extraordinarily prescient.

Rewriting history

THE global village is here. Tass and CNN, two of the world's leading news organisations, which until recently held diametrically opposing editorial stances, agreed jointly to publish a book about the failed Soviet coup. *Three Days that Shook the World: The Collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union* will contain new material from the Russian agency.

Vitaly Ignatenko, the director-general of Tass, and a former spokesman for President Gorbachev, and Tom Johnson, CNN president, signed the agreement in Moscow last week. "The full resources of CNN and Tass will assure a balanced and dramatic story," says Johnson, who hopes it will be the first of many such collaborations.



RAISING THE STAKES

President George Bush is taking big political risks to secure a Middle East peace conference. He is willing to challenge the sizeable American Jewish lobby to achieve what he describes as "a major chance for one more tremendous step towards peace." A peace conference involving all the main participants in the Arab-Israeli conflict would be a considerable prize, the best since Camp David and the Israeli-Egyptian agreement of the late 1970s. But it is proving elusive.

Exhaustive efforts in June and July by James Baker, the American secretary of state, succeeded in obtaining agreement in principle from all sides for such a conference. That rested on understandings, both public and private, about who could participate and how the conference would work. But new difficulties keep emerging which could unravel the earlier agreements. Mr Baker and Boris Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday failed to agree on the timing of the conference and the exact wording of the invitations. Mr Baker conceded that "a fair amount of work" still needed to be done.

The most serious threat arises from further Israeli settlement in the occupied territories, long opposed by America as well as by the European Community. Mr Bush believes he has been misled by the Israeli government's promises not to expand these settlements. In order to win the agreement of Syria and Palestinian representatives to attend a conference, America gave them assurances that the settlements will not be expanded. In Washington's eyes, the Israeli application for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to finance the resettlement of new Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants was, at very least, appalling timing.

America is sympathetic to Israel's housing difficulties, but feels that, in Mr Bush's words, "we must avoid a contentious debate that would raise a host of controversial issues, issues so sensitive that a debate now could well destroy our ability to bring one or more of the parties to the peace table." But there is a fine dividing line between risking non-attendance by the Syrians and risking further undermining the Israeli government,

which could defer a conference until well into next year.

The White House has sought to delay a decision for 120 days. This would be until after the start of the conference, though the White House has said the loan guarantees will then be available and America will reimburse Israel for any costs incurred as a result of the wait. A delay would allow a good-faith pause, while not risking the use of any money guaranteed by America on new settlements. The Shamir government has said publicly it will attend a peace conference whether or not Israel receives the loan guarantees. But Mr Shamir yesterday toughened his public opposition to any link between immigration and the Arab-Israeli dispute. He in effect supported the efforts of his American lobbyists to oppose any delay.

Mr Bush has deliberately raised the temperature by portraying himself, somewhat unconvincingly, as "one lonely little guy" against the 1,000 American Jewish leaders in Washington to lobby Congress. His stand contradicts the notion, widespread in Europe, that America is in the pocket of Israel. Mr Bush and Mr Baker, with their shared background of Texas oil, have been more critical publicly of some of Israel's actions than any previous administration. The president is less dependent in his election campaigns on money from Jewish groups than many of his predecessors and than many in Congress. Mr Bush also knows that American Jewish opinion is today as plural as opinion in Israel itself, and less willing automatically to agree with the Israeli government.

Since Mr Bush became president in January 1989, Congress has never been able to organise the two-thirds majority necessary to override his veto. Mr Bush hopes that he will have demonstrated his good faith to the Arab world and that the Jewish lobby will be seen to have overreached itself. Having embarked on the battle, however, Mr Bush needs to win to be sure that the peace conference goes ahead. He has scored some remarkable foreign policy successes of late. He is playing for high stakes in facing down Mr Shamir.

CRIMINAL FALLACIES

Is there a home secretary with the courage to stop the current nonsense about crime statistics? Today *The Times* is obliged to report for the record the latest quarterly crime figures from the Home Office. They purport to show a further rise by 18 per cent in "notifiable offences recorded by the police" in England and Wales, to a total of almost five million "crimes". They thus give the security industry and media scaremongers a gratifying "crime wave" to shout about.

As *The Times* has pointed out on many occasions, these figures do not record the scope, intensity or rate of increase (or decrease) of crime in this country. They are merely the tip of the iceberg of true crime, while nobody knows how big the iceberg is. The figures are a compendium of the incident books in 43 police authorities round the country. They do not record the actual level of crime or the public's experience of it, nor, more important still, the public's fear of it. Yet the compendium, collated and publicised by the Home Office, could hardly be better designed to raise public fear and distort understanding of the condition of society.

"Police-recorded crime" is a function of police activity in the round. The overall figure has also risen historically with the ownership of valuable property, the growth of insurance and the ease of access to police stations, particularly by telephone. The more an area is policed, the more "crime" is bound to be reported. This even applies to the 5 per cent of crime that involves violence. For instance, the reporting of violent crime against women reflects changing police policy towards domestic violence and the reputation of the local police for the sympathetic handling of female victims, and thus goes up or down with the reputation.

NAMELESS COMMONWEALTH

"May the Lord God help Russia," concluded the letter of abdication of Nicholas II. Today millions of Russians echo the last Tsar of all the Russias. The transformation of the Russian Empire into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was no more profound than the latter's supersession by a community of republics, now under way. Two letters in *The Times* this week proposed renaming the Soviet Union either the "Free Union of Sovereign Republics" or even "Eurasia". Neither quite fits the new dispensation. But does anything else?

Revolution in the Soviet Union demands changes beyond the purely political. The Soviet Union must be dismantled, an alarming process because nobody knows which notion of statehood individual Soviet republics will now adopt. Boris Yeltsin, who has the superhuman task of bridging two historical eras, last week came up with the sobering thought that Western models of democracy "might not suit" Russia. A new political vocabulary is clearly needed, starting with a new name.

Until last week, the USSR could be said still to exist. Before last month's coup, Mikhail Gorbachev had been willing to change the name from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to one of Soviet Sovereign Republics. By last week, with most structures of central authority taken over by the republics, the residual executive and the legislature of the former Soviet Union accepted that not only "Socialist" but also "Soviet" would have to go. Though the provisional title "Union of Sovereign

Computerisation of car number-plates by the police and extension of comprehensive car insurance have sent theft of or from cars "soaring". Whether this is also due to falling new car sales and a booming black market, or to more unemployment, or even to more sin, is wholly unclear. A successful "crack-down" on crimes such as shoplifting and teenage drug-use can equally mean a rise in reported incidents. To conclude anything sensible about the state of society from such figures is impossible. Yet the media, politicians and lobbyists are whipped into a frenzy, not just each year but each quarter, by the Home Office. And the Metropolitan Police added its pennyworth of hysteria by putting out its figures a day before the Home Office.

Chief police officers and civil servants are increasingly embarrassed by this. Indeed the caveats published with the Home Office statistical bulletin declare the meaningless of the exercise: "Changes in the number of offences recorded do not necessarily provide an accurate reflection of changes in the amount of crime committed." The obvious conclusion is that incident reporting should be left to individual forces, and the Home Office should turn the public's attention instead to the British Crime Survey, based on reputable public-opinion polling. This has not been updated since 1988, which is a scandal.

Politicians at the Home Office have found the hyping of the quarterly figures useful, as have many policemen, in pressing the Treasury for more money and manpower. They have also been nervous of curtailing news of crime, however fatuous its interpretation, at a time when the nation is obsessed with the subject. Thus the vicious circle continues. One proper British Crime Survey a year should be enough.

Republics" was used by the Congress of People's Deputies, the future commonwealth is free to choose another title. That will be for the delegates from the ten participating republics to decide, if and when they draw up a new treaty.

Like Louis XIV's "l'état, c'est moi" and Lincoln's "government of the people, by the people, and for the people", the Soviet state and the new national republics differ in more than name: they are conceptually incommensurable. Russia itself is a huge association of peoples. But its identity crisis need not be terminal. The first stage of demolition began last year with the rise of Mr Yeltsin, when the new Russia could already be glimpsed behind the scaffolding. The Russian nationalists will seek to maintain the unity of the federation, but intend to devolve more real power to its autonomous republics and regions. After the United States of America, there is a case for the "United Republics of Russia".

The successor to the Soviet Union, on the other hand, must not imply a more centralised entity than the non-Russians can live with. It could be the "Eurasian Community" or perhaps the "Eurasian Treaty Organisation", but terms like "union" or "confederation" suggest too great a surrender of sovereignty. The outside world must await the post-communist consensus. Until the republics can agree on a new name for their eurasian grouping, *The Times* and everybody else will just have to use "Soviet Union" to describe this sphinx.

Call to reform antiquities law

From Dr P. V. Addyman

Sir, The appalling ransom which has just been paid to keep the Middleham Jewel in the UK (report, August 9; letter, August 22) exposes the hopeless inadequacy of Britain's antiquities legislation.

Britain is now in a minority in Europe in lacking a system of statutory protection which guards against denudation of the heritage and the loss of the raw material for archaeological study. Down the years it has chiefly been the Council for British Archaeology which has campaigned to put this right, yet all its efforts have been thwarted.

In 1983 a sensible measure to reform treasure trove which attracted almost unanimous support in the House of Lords was mysteriously set aside by a procedural device in the Commons. More recently the Department of the Environment carried out a review of portable antiquities legislation — but then ignored the most constructive proposals that it received and is now embarked upon a voluntary code of practice which can only be seen as an excuse for unwillingness to take real action.

As the saga of the Icklingham Hoard Roman bronzes, stolen from a Suffolk farmer's land ten years ago, continues to unfold, we are reminded of the UK's continuing refusal to ratify the UNESCO convention on illicit trade in cultural property. Tinkering with the status quo no longer answers the need — which is for radical reform and consolidation of Britain's ramshackle and disjointed statutory provision for the historic environment.

Britain's heritage is in jeopardy. How much more of it must we lose before anyone can persuade the government to act? And is anyone trying?

Yours faithfully,
P. V. ADDYMAN (Director),
York Archaeological Trust,
1 Pavement, York.
September 6.

Voters' rights

From Mrs Roseanne Williams

Sir, Electors may not be aware that after the forthcoming general election anyone can go into their local electoral registration office and obtain the names of people who have exercised their democratic right and voted. It is not possible, as a result, to determine how people have voted, but it seems to me to be an infringement of the "secret" ballot when political parties can take a register and copy out lists of voters. It is obviously necessary to ensure fair elections and avoid ballot rigging but I think that access to this detailed information should be restricted.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEANNE WILLIAMS,
Tosell, Perton Road,
Wightwick, Wolverhampton.
September 4.

Modern hazard

From Mr Mark Westaby

Sir, My mother, who runs a spottish ship, spent a full half-day removing carpets and emptying cupboards, with slipper in hand to pounce on the unfortunate cricket that had found its way into my parents' bungalow.

Fortunately, before she had finally given in and telephoned the local council pest control department, it dawned upon her that the elusive insect was a smoke alarm whose battery needed replacing (letters, September 5, 10).

Yours faithfully,
MARK WESTABY,
22 Hampstead Lane, N6,
September 10.

Aux armes, citoyens!

From Mrs Elisabeth G. Hill
Sir, I am a French national and have been married to an Englishman for the past 26 years. We have a son aged 21 who, like M. Faivre d'Arcey's grandson (letter, September 7) possesses dual nationality. Before he was 18 I contacted the French authorities to clarify my son's situation towards French nationality and compulsory national service.

We filled in the necessary forms and found that because he did not reside in France he was exempt from military duty.

Yours,
ELISABETH G. HILL,
21 Morton Road, Loughon,
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.
September 7.

Protecting Berkshire

From the Leader of Berkshire County Council

Sir, Mr Barr Miller is, of course, correct to say (September 3) that should the emphasis on development in the South-East shift from the western counties to the east of the region, then pressures on Berkshire will ease.

In fact, redressing the balance between east and west already forms part of the government's planning guidance for the South-East. Few details are available at present about the proposal for the east Thames corridor, but it may help support Berkshire County Council's strategy, set out in its current structure plan review, for reducing house-building rates still further and seeking a restrained approach to

Creating a church within a church

From Dr David J. Girling

Sir, You report (September 9) that the Venerable George Austin, Archdeacon of York, has called for the creation of a "church within a church" as the only means of avoiding open schism between traditionalists and liberals within the Church of England.

This view overlooks the position that I and many Christians find ourselves in, namely, that we would not wish to be identified exclusively with any party within the church, whether it be traditionalist, liberal, catholic, evangelical or charismatic, but consider that all have valuable contributions to make.

Indeed, we would encourage church members to expect to gain from those with whom they do not entirely agree. Such a stance has the courage to believe that, providing debate is honest, humble and thorough, the church can be led forward towards a common if variegated mind, but it does imply a readiness to change, however cautiously.

Since the immediate problem in the archdeacon's mind is the divide, as he sees it, between traditionalist and liberal, it is particularly important to acknowledge one of the most valuable lessons from the liberal wing: that of sincere, robust, intellectual integrity.

Yours truly,
DAVID GIRLING,
11 Bateman Mews, Cambridge.
September 10.

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, The Archdeacon of York seems to be wrong in suggesting that the Church of England split along traditionalist/liberal lines. Many of us on the sidelines of the church feel that it spends an inordinate amount of time and energy in trying to make relevant much that has been obvious to society down the ages.

The householder, in the parable of the tares and the wheat, had it about right. Faced with his zealous labourers' enquiry as to whether they should not root out the alien crop of weeds, his advice was to "let both grow together" until the harvest, when it is much easier to distinguish the one from the other.

By the same token, I find myself unable to be quite sure as to whether God is to be addressed as a man alone, or by one of the somewhat in-

creased to include a unit whose members would have or acquire skills which specifically related to minority problems? A staff would then be available to study on the ground individual cases which have not exploded into irreversible violence on a large scale.

With increasing experience these professional trouble shooters would, with CSCE backing, be better placed than any non-specialist individual to suggest detailed measures for the amelioration or elimination of grievances.

The great attraction of such a scheme is that the CSCE would have cognisance of some potential trouble spots before tempers got out of hand. With the force of international opinion behind it, the CSCE might then be able to guide and assist the negotiating skills of the protagonists on the ground before local patience was exhausted and guns were drawn.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. JOHNSON,
Middle Corner Cottage,
Hempton, Banbury, Oxford.
September 6.

From Mr Charles Whittington-Smith

Sir, Dr Edward Norman's article ("Siren voices from the pulpit", September 10) is a reminder that in the earlier years of this century a well-known Dean of St Paul's (W. R. Inge) — popularly known at one time as the Gloomy Dean — said the Church of England is best described as a bundle of incompatible religious beliefs held together by the Establishment.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WHITTINGTON-SMITH,
Grendon, Hydro Close,
Baslow, Bakewell, Derbyshire.
September 10.

Yugoslav conflict

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson

Sir, Roger Boyes's article ("Can he silence the Balkan guns?", September 5) highlights the difficulties facing Lord Carrington or any other person or body trying to ameliorate the tragic situation in Yugoslavia.

There are in Europe many potential dangers for change by national, racial or religious minorities trapped in what they see as unfriendly enclaves or on the (for them) wrong side of state or national boundaries.

These cases will continue to emerge from the shadows and each is a potential source of violence and bloodshed. A feature common to most such troubles is that they are faced at the international level only after they have passed a point of no return from violence.

At the recent Paris meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe the "Charter for a New Europe" set up a "Conflict Prevention Centre". Should not the United Kingdom press in the CSCE for the remit of this centre to be widened and its physical resources

increased to include a unit whose members would have or acquire skills which specifically related to minority problems? A staff would then be available to study on the ground individual cases which have not exploded into irreversible violence on a large scale.

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Yours faithfully,
P. W. JOHNSON,
Middle Corner Cottage,
Hempton, Banbury, Oxford.
September 6.

A-level grades

From Mr J. D. Haden

Sir, In all the discussion of the league tables of schools' A-level results, both independent and state, one factor is glaringly obvious. If a school selects a small proportion of highly intelligent pupils from a huge population with good transport across a large conurbation, it will produce a high percentage of top grades.

What is perhaps more surprising is that schools which pride themselves on offering much more than academic excellence and select from a much smaller pool of potential

students, because they are boarding schools, can nevertheless compete in this academic super-league.

It is also remarkable that over a quarter of the state schools which still offer boarding places produced results at A level which won them places in the "top 250 state schools". Clearly sixth-form boarding does have academic added-value as well as being an excellent preparation for student life away from home.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. HADEN (Chairman,
Boarding Schools Association),
King Edward VI School,
Louth, Lincolnshire.
September 11.

Yesterday's man?

From Mr Martin Kuhn

Sir, The design on the new 22p stamp shows Owen's Dinosauria. Is this perhaps marking the end of a certain political career?

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN KUHN,
5 Tavistock Court,
Tavistock Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
September 9.



further business and industrial development.

In deciding on the level of growth to be planned for in the period up to 2006, the county council has the difficult task of balancing local housing requirements and the need to maintain the generally buoyant local economy with the constraints imposed by the availability of natural resources, the quality of the environment and the provision of infrastructure.

The county is already experiencing acute traffic problems and pressures in services. It is losing its countryside to development at a rate second only to Buckinghamshire

(which includes Milton Keynes), yet nearly two-thirds of the county is within the green belt or an area of outstanding natural beauty.

I share views expressed by many local people and organisations, earlier this year, in response to a successful consultation exercise, that there are problems in accommodating further major housing development in Berkshire. It may be that if the secretary of state's initiative is successful in diverting growth pressures to the east of London we may be able to justify even greater reductions in house-building in future structure plan reviews.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH GIMBLETT, Leader,
Berkshire County Council,
Shire Hall, Shinfield Park,
Reading, Berkshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Birds and bees in scheme of things

From Professor David Bellamy

Sir, I must do my best to put Bernard Levin out of his misery of misunderstanding on the bittern and tell him why it and other species should be conserved ("Those dodos were dead right", September 9).

Bitterns are good to eat, or at least they were a regular item of Sunday lunch during the early 18th century when shooters could bag 20 or 30 in a morning. Since that not so dim and distant past the population of these booming birds has had its ups and downs.

Fenland, complete with bitterns and a whole host of now rare plants, birds and animals, once covered 1,306 square miles of East Anglia. Now it is almost gone, drained at considerable expense to grow vast crops of grain. Most of the best peat soils, complete with their fair share of bittern droppings and feathers, have wasted away. When all the peat has gone within ten to 30 years from now, its clay base will not be worth farming let alone draining.

Then the bittern may come back into its own as the land, which is well below sea level, can be reflooded. The call of these wonderful birds will tell us that the landscape is once again in good heart, no need for expensive satellite monitoring or computer models.

Why are these strange people who like such strange things? Well, when they were children their dads and mums probably took them to places like London Zoo and Kew Gardens where they came to understand the importance of, among other things, elephants and trees.

I am one of the lucky few who have seen bitterns face to face on the Norfolk Broads and on reflection I realise that in looks they have much in common with Bernard Levin. Perhaps your cartoonist could have a try, but please don't depict Mr Levin in too edible a form, for like all rare things he is much more useful alive, and writing.

Yours etc.,
DAVID J. BELLAMY,
The Conservation Foundation,
1 Kensington Gore, SW7,
September 10.

From Mr F. C. Argenti

Sir, Bernard Levin's broadsides do not always hit the target but his blast against the wildlife protection industry comes close. There is a case for conserving species but it does need to be examined more rigorously than professional protectionists would like.

Given that humans are blessed with gifts of understanding, it seems reasonable that we should not, consciously and deliberately, exterminate any species of animal or plant. The slug and the teese fly may have some part to play in the scheme of things. This proposition is rather different from saying we should deliberately try to conserve less successful species.

Humans, like all other species, seek to exploit natural resources for their own benefit. If an African peasant kills the leopard which preys on his cattle, or a Scottish fisherman kills the seal that reduces fish stocks, they are doing what the leopard and the seal are doing — no more and no less. If they then sell the leopard or seal skin to improve their lot — why not?

We should not feel guilty because we are a successful species (so far). It is as well, however, to remember that resources are finite and that we cannot indefinitely continue to increase our numbers and our consumption.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK ARGENTI,
171 Rock Avenue,
Gillingham, Kent.

From Sir David Serpell

Sir, Before Bernard Levin (whom Heaven preserve) sits down to his roast bittern garni somewhere in the modern Babylon, he should ponder the words of Isaiah, c.14, vv.22, 23: I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name... I will also make it a possession for the bittern...

Where trees are concerned, Mr Levin will recall the words (v.8) of the rejoicing fir trees and cedars of Lebanon:

Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.
Yours sincerely,
DAVID SERPELL,
25 Crossparks, Dartmouth, Devon.

From Major-General A. S. Jaeps (ret'd)

Sir, How wrong is Bernard Levin in suggesting that it is preferable that elephants be reduced to extinction than that people should not have enough to eat. He could learn from a game-warden in Bangladesh, as I did in 1978, when I suggested that I should shoot a man-eating tiger that was preying on fishermen. "Oh, no," he said in horror, "we have many fishermen, but very few tigers."

Yours faithfully,
A. S. JAEPS,
The Army and Navy Club,
36 Pall Mall, SW1.

From Mr Ken Kilburn

Sir, Bernard Levin is certainly a rare bird. I for one would be delighted to subscribe to any RSPBL.

Yours faithfully,
KEN KILBURN,
Dilkusha, Pilgrims' Way,
Westhumble,
Dorking, Surrey.
September 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 28



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 13: The Princess Royal today visited West Sussex and was received by Major General Sir Philip Ward (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex).
Her Royal Highness opened the Mid-Sussex Magistrates' Courthouse, Bolnisi Road, Haywards Heath.
Afterwards the Princess opened Mid-Sussex Hospital, to be named The Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath.
This afternoon Her Royal Highness opened the new sports facilities at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, Haywards Heath and subsequently opened the classroom extension and audiology clinic at Mill Hall School, Cuckfield.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.
KENSINGTON PALACE
September 13: The Prince of Wales today arrived in Italy to undertake engagements in connection with the Prince of Wales's Summer School in Civil Architecture and, as Patron, the William Walton Foundation.
Mr Peter Westmacott and Mr Richard Armitage are in attendance.
The Princess of Wales visited the Royal Hospital and Home, Putney, London SW15.
Mrs Max Pike and Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.
Prince Henry of Wales is 7 tomorrow.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Barron and Miss E.A. Webb
The engagement is announced between Alastair, eldest son of Sir Donald and Lady Barron, of Bishopthorpe, York, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfred Webb, of Bromley, Kent.

Mr C.J.L. Bowring and Miss K. Morley
The engagement is announced between Charles John Lennox, elder son of Major General and Mrs John Bowring, of Coln St Aldwyns, Gloucestershire, and Kathryn, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Morley, of Waltham, Lincolnshire.

Mr E.B. Claxton and Miss S.R. Sedcole
The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr John B. Claxton and Mrs Patricia Claxton, both of Montreal, Canada, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Frazier Sedcole, of Tyrrell's Wood, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Dr A. Datta and Miss J. Elves
The engagement is announced between Dr Andrew Dean, of The Firs, Wem, and Miss Judith Elves, of the Old Vicarage, Wimbush. Both trained at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Mr T.E.J. Hens, FRCS and Miss J.M. Dodson
The engagement is announced between Timothy Edmund John, second son of the Rev Richard Brian and Mrs Hens, of Portlough, Norfolk, and Janice-May, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Sefton Dodson, of Sidcup, Kent.

Mr M.I. Smith and Miss J.P. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Smith, of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, and Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stephens, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Miss Sandra Blow, painter, 66; Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, 75; Professor J.F. Coles, electrical engineer, 84; Sir James Cobbe, former headmaster, Abingdon School, 81; Vice-Admiral Sir William Crawford, 84; Sir Paul Dean, MP, 67; Mr Terence Donovan, photographer, 55; Mr Michael Howard, composer and conductor, 69; Sir Hugh Mait, former High Court judge, 84; Sir Lees Mayall, diplomat, 76; the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, 63; Air Marshal Sir Frederick Seward, 78; Mr Ray Wilkins, footballer, 35; Mr Nicol Williamson, actor, 53; Lord Wiltshire, 47; Mr Martin Wyld, chief restorer, National Gallery, 47.

TOMORROW: The Rev Professor P.R. Ackroyd, theologian, 74; Mr Richard Arnell, composer and conductor, 74; Mr Charles Bone, mural and

watercolour painter, 65; the Marquess of Bristol, 37; General Eva Burrows, international leader, Salvation Army, 62; Dame Sylvia Crowe, landscape architect, 90; Lord Eden of Winton, 66; Professor Brian Fender, vice-chancellor, Keele University, 57; General Sir Victor FitzGerald-Balfour, 78; Dr Richard Gordon, author, 70; Sir Philip Harris, former chairman, Harris Queensway, 49; Lord Kinnaird, 79; Miss Jessie Norman, soprano, 46; Viscountess Mary, 62; Mr Glen Reuff, former chief executive, Reuters, 63; Sir Clive Rose, diplomat, 70; Mr Justice Schiemann, 44; Lady Soames, 69; Sir Peter Studd, former Lord Mayor of London, 75; Mr Graham Taylor, manager, England football team, 47; Sir Richard Way, former principal, King's College, London, 77; Sir John Williams, diplomat, 69.

Dinners

Papal Knights in Great Britain
The Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh was the celebrant at the Papal Knights in Great Britain annual celebration held yesterday at the Church of Our Lady of Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, WI, in honour of St Gregory the Great and St Sylvester.

Afterwards, he was the principal guest at a dinner held at the Café Royal. The Duke of Norfolk presided and among others present were the Polish and Spanish Ambassadors, Sir Harold Hood, Sir John Woodcock and Admiral Sir Julian Oswald.

Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
Dr P.J.F. Baskett, President of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate. The guests included:

Dr J. J. Baskett, President of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate. The guests included:

Service luncheon
General Sir John Chapple, Colonel of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha, presided at the Delhi Day luncheon of the Sirmoor Club held yesterday at the Royal Over-Seas League, St James's.

Service reception
No 11 Group, RAF, Air Vice-Marshal Sir William Whitten, Air Officer Commanding No 11 Group RAF, Lady Whitten and Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs J.S. Allison received the guests at the annual Battle of Britain cocktail party held last night at RAF Bentley Priory.

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Professor Geoffrey Chisholm, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, has been elected Chairman of the Joint Committee on Surgical Training by Britain's four royal colleges.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will visit a youth rally at Bicton College of Agriculture, Devon, at noon as part of Devon's year for youth.

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Alick Buchanan-Smith

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Alick Buchanan-Smith, KC, MP, will be held at noon on Tuesday, October 1, 1991, at St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH REIDY



Joseph Patrick Irwin Reidy, plastic surgeon, died on September 10 aged 83. He was born on October 30, 1907.

JOE Reidy belonged to the second generation of plastic surgeons, who saw their infant branch of medical science win first the acceptance then the respect of their profession. Men like McIndoe, Mowlem, Gillies and Pommert Kilner had fought to establish their craft in the 1930s and captured the imagination of the public with their work on those wounded during the second world war. Their successors, like Reidy, whom they trained during those years, capitalised on the parallel advances since 1945 in antibiotics, transfusion techniques and anaesthesia and were rewarded by the steady expansion of their science. The allocation of more hospital resources is the measure of their achievement since the war.

So, too, has been the advance of microsurgery. Reidy saw his own special interest, the treatment of cleft lip and palate, develop into a definitive operation after birth, which completely removes the blemish in most cases. His own major contribution to this progress was summed up in a noted Hunterian lecture in the 1960s which described the treatment of several hundred cases. Reidy's special skills. But he worked as well on general plastic surgery, especially during the war when air raid victims and other civilian casualties were taken to Stoke Mandeville for treatment.

He was born in London, the second son of a general practitioner who had moved from County Limerick when the Blackwall Tunnel was being

built to treat the thousands of Irish workers who had settled near the Commercial Road in east London. A devout Catholic throughout his life Reidy went to Stonyhurst College, Lancs, then to St John's College, Cambridge, where he boxed for the university and played rugby and owned a punt which he called "Pete" — a nickname by which his contemporaries always knew him.

He trained at the London Hospital and, after three years working as a general practitioner and as a Metropolitan police surgeon in the 1930s,

became a surgeon at RAF Hospital, Halton. On the outbreak of war he went to work for the emergency medical services in Albert Dock Hospital in 1939-40, St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay in 1940-42 and finally Stoke Mandeville.

There he began as an assistant to Professor Pommert Kilner and stayed to become Kilner's deputy, then in 1957 his successor as director of the plastic surgery unit after Kilner based himself at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Reidy was also a consultant at Westminster Hospital, London, until his retirement in

1972, and at a number of other hospitals including the West Middlesex. His many honorary appointments included at various times consultancies at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, and St Paul's, London.

He was loaded with honours, including a gold medal from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1961, and he had the rare distinction of being twice appointed Hunterian professor at the Royal College of Surgeons. He was president of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons in 1962 and was a Freeman of the City of London.

He continued both boxing and rugby after Cambridge, becoming the United Hospitals heavyweight champion and, in rugby, one of the finest second row forwards in the country. He played for the Barbarians against the 1935 All Blacks but narrowly missed an Irish cap.

Nearly 6ft 3ins in height and weighing more than 15 stones he had an intimidating presence as he strode through the wards of Stoke Mandeville. His broken nose and battered ears were the legacy of his sporting life. His other pastimes included bricklaying and rough gardening. But he was also a skilled photographer who recorded his own operations for posterity. He was known as a fierce competitor, off the field as well as on it, and led many battles over plans to cut down on beds, theatre facilities or nursing care. But behind his forthrightness lay kindness and compassion which endeared him to his patients throughout his life.

Joe Reidy's first wife, Anne, died in 1970 and he is survived by his second wife, Freda, and by the three daughters of his first marriage.

ALAN GOURLEY



Alan Stenhouse Gourley, artist, designer and president of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters from 1978 to 1982, died in Kent on September 9 aged 82. He was born in Ayr on April 13, 1909.

ALAN Gourley brought to his painting the eye of an impressionist to capture effects of light and water, which he rendered in a strong, partially abstract style. He will be remembered for his oil paintings, the versatility of his professional design in several areas of design — especially stage design and stained glass — and for the inspiration of his teaching, particularly in South Africa.

Alan Stenhouse Gourley was born in Ayr, Scotland. At the age of 17 he went to Glasgow School of Art, studying under Ansel Srousch and James Huxford, and then, from 1929 to 1931, to Edinburgh College of Art under William Gillies and Herbert Hendry. Always one to put the welfare of others before his own, Gourley was obliged, for the

sake of his mother's health, to take the family to a dry, sunny climate in South Africa. He taught art at Johannesburg Technical College from 1932 to 1937 to support his family, and developed a career as a stained glass artist, making large windows for the Anglican cathedral in Johannesburg and the Roman Catholic cathedral in Pretoria. He enjoyed teaching and his students enjoyed it with him.

A chance to study for a second time, at the then centre of the art world, the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, was too good to miss, and Gourley worked there in the Studio Sabatti from 1938 to 1940 when the German invasion cut short such activities. Gourley's talents as a designer and a teacher were put to good use in southern England as an instructor in the Camouflage Corps.

A third spell of studentship followed, with a post-war servicemen's grant, when Gourley studied at the Slade School of Art in 1945 under Randolph Schwabe and Alan Gwynne-Jones. Settling in Bromley, Gourley then became the regular set designer for the New Theatre there, also designing for the theatre at Richmond and some West End shows.

However, oil painting remained his first love, and he worked and exhibited from 1949 showing frequently at the Mall Galleries in London where the Queen Mother, with her noted eye for art, bought

one of his paintings. Many painters have a favourite time of day for working; Gourley's was early morning, for the unique light.

He was fortunate in being able to travel widely — throughout Europe, and to the USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, India, Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and South Africa. A member of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters from 1963, Gourley became its president from 1978 to 1982. He was also president of the Chelsea Art Society until 1989, and a frequent exhibitor at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

In London, beside the carpet which he designed for South Africa House and decorations at the Cumberland Hotel, the most impressive monument to Gourley's versatility and design is the decor of screens, columns and ceramic plaques for the headquarters of Barclays Bank in Lombard Street.

Headington School, Oxford

The School's Open Evening will be held on Friday, September 20, from 7.00 to 9.00 pm. The "Headings" Day will be held on Sunday, September 22. The day will commence at 9.30 am with a Service in the School which will be followed by a Hockey Match and the A.C.M. at which a farewell will be made to Miss Peggy Howarth, who retired in July after being with the School since 1955, and to Miss June Vevers, who retired in April after being Bursar at the School since 1962. Further details of these events can be obtained from the School — telephone Oxford 62711.

L'Ecole Des Roches

Renée is today, M. Daniel Venturini becomes Directeur and Mr Paul Spencer Ellis Headmaster of the International Section. Details of courses in English and French leading to the International Baccalaureate are available from the Headmaster, 27137 Verneuil, Normandy.

St Benedict's School, Ealing

The Old Priorians Association annual dinner will be held on September 28, 1991. Reservations 0923 50640.

Surbiton High School

The Old Girls' Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 1991, at 7.30 pm in the Senior School Hall.

Miss Violet Hill

A memorial service for Miss Violet Hill, OBE, former headmistress of Working Girls' Grammar School, will be held at Christ Church, Woking, on Saturday, September 21, at 5.30 pm.

JAN JOZEF LIPSKI

Jan Jozef Lipski, anti-communist activist and founding member of the Polish Committee for the Defence of Workers' Rights (KOR), died of heart disease on September 10 aged 65. He was born in Warsaw on May 25, 1926.

JAN Jozef Lipski, an important and enduring figure in the Polish dissident opposition, never abandoned his commitment to a democratic, tolerant brand of socialism. Through his various professions as essayist, literary critic, historian, and, latterly, as an active member of the Polish senate, he argued fiercely against communist dogma and in favour of a return to the social democratic tradition represented by the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). His colleague Adam Michnik, a fellow founding member of the Committee for the Defence of Workers' Rights (KOR) in the late 1970s, declared him to be "a man of great heart and crystalline honesty."

As a 16-year-old Lipski joined the Polish partisans and fought bravely two years later in the 1944 Warsaw uprising. He was wounded and awarded the Cross of Valour. After the war he watched aghast as the PPS — with all its patriotic and parliamentary virtues — was bludgeoned into a union with the Polish Workers' Party (the communists). Following a conventional student's course in Polish literature, he also took part in clandestine study groups. This set a pattern for his life.

Stalin's death in 1953 and the political thaw in Poland of 1956 under the Communist Party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka seemed to promise a return to some form of Polish, or democratic, socialism. Lipski joined, and chaired, the Crooked Circle Club between 1956 and 1959 which set the agenda for reform, challenging "socialist realism" precepts in literature and art, scolding censorship and roaming freely over many political issues. Lipski was also associated with the *Po Prostu* weekly, which grouped many talented journalists who shared a belief in reform socialism. By 1960, they were all disappointed; Gomulka scratched back the small freedoms and the *Po Prostu* group splintered. Some later emerged as champions of General Jaruzelski and martial law, but not Lipski. In 1964 he helped to write the Letter of the 34 Intellectuals, protesting against censorship. In 1968 he supported the student demonstrators against Gomulka. In 1975, he was among the intellectuals opposed to constitutional amendments which enshrined the leading role of the Communist Party and eternal friendship with the Soviet Union.

But his dissident credentials stretched well beyond the signing of letters and the striking of postures. He had, unlike many of his opposition colleagues, a genuine interest in, and respect for, workers. His role in helping to establish KOR to defend the workers jailed and beaten in the price riots of June, 1976, in Radom, in central Poland, was entirely and, in 1983, he completed an history of KOR which was published clandestinely. The collapse of communist rule in 1989 not only secured him a seat in the freely elected senate, but also revived his dream of establishing the PPS in a free society. The London-based wing of the party, under Lydia Ciolkosz, was united, in October last year, with the Polish section, and Lipski became its executive chairman. Now Lipski argued again on behalf of the workers, this time stressing that they should not be swept aside by the radical market reforms of the Solidarity government. But the rejection of socialism in Poland was so complete that the PPS programme failed to capture a large following. Lipski, at the end of his life, found himself on the margins of the political game. But he appeared easy with this role and was always honest about his party's limitations. "Whenever a man needed advice on a moral dilemma, he went to Janek," said his friend, the former dissident Jacek Kuron. "He was an opposition institution."

Lipski leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter.

typical. Communism, he felt, had failed the working class; KOR showed that intellectuals, of social democratic or Catholic hue, could make common cause with workers and develop something entirely new. It was the very germ of Solidarity. Nothing gave Lipski greater pleasure than to be elected Solidarity senator for Radom 13 years later.

Lipski was active in many of the crucial events during Solidarity's 16 months of legal existence in 1980-81. When martial law was declared in December, 1981, Lipski immediately joined the strike in the Ursus tractor factory. He was arrested but his debilitating heart disease was apparent even to the secret police who kept him under hospital guard. He was sacked though from his academic post at the Institute of Literary Studies. International lobbying persuaded the communist authorities that he should be given a passport and allowed to undergo heart surgery in London. After a successful operation, he returned to Poland, well aware of the dangers. He was arrested soon after arrival, but released on medical grounds and eventually dismissed.

His illness thus bought him some immunity not enjoyed by his KOR colleagues, but he remained an uncomfortable presence for the authorities



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Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Robert Raikes, pioneer of Sunday schools, Gloucester, 1735; Luigi Cherubini, composer, Florence, 1760; Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1769; Theodor Storm, poet and novelist, Schleswig, 1817; Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and artist, London, 1909.
DEATHS: Dante Alighieri, poet, Ravenna, 1321; Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork, statesman, Youghal, Cork, 1643; James Fenimore Cooper, novelist, Cooperstown, New York, 1851; Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, prime minister 1828-30, Wellesbourne, Kent, 1852; Augustus Pugin, architect, Ramsgate, 1852; William McKinley, 25th president of the USA 1897-1901, New York, 1901; Isadora Duncan, dancer, Nice, 1927; Dame Margery (Madge) Kendal, actress, Chorleywood, Herts, 1935; Tomas Masaryk, 1st president of Czechoslovakia 1918-35, Lany, 1937; Geoffrey Fisher, Bishop of Canterbury 1945-61, London, 1969; Grace of Monaco, killed in a car crash, Monte Carlo, 1982.

The adoption of the Gregorian calendar in place of the Julian whereby this day followed September 2, 1752. The first landing of a space machine on the moon — the Soviet Lunik II, 1959. The *Daily Herald* ceased publication, replaced by the *Sun*, 1964. Elizabeth Ann

Wandsworth Reels

To celebrate the 21st year, Harry Verney and the committee invite as many as possible of those who have reeled over the past 20 years to come to a reunion at Wandsworth Town Hall on Thursday, October 3, 1991. Supper 7.30 pm, reels 8.45 pm. Tickets, supper only: £6.00 each, supper and reels £10.00. Apply to Mrs Spencer, 24 Kelvedon Road, SW6 5BW (with s.a.e.).

Company of Chartered Architects

The following have been installed officers of the Company of Chartered Architects for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Peter Luscombe; Upper Warden, Mr Stuart J. Murphy; Renier Warden, Mr B. Ashley Barker; Junior Warden, Mr Michael Welbank.

BBC 2

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BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University.** Ends at 8.50
- 8.55 Playdays (1)** 9.15 Articles of Faith. Fr Gerry Hughes examines how our image of God affects the way people pray.
- 9.30 This is the Day.** A simple religious service from a school in Ruislip work of the Breakthrough Trust, a report on a starting school and in the You and Your Organisations slot the Deaf Broadcasting Council is featured.
- 10.30 Film: Greenpeace Summer (1991)** starring Susannah York and Kenneth More. Nicely handled romantic tale of a 16-year-old girl, on an extended holiday in France, who falls in love with a jewel thief and is unwittingly responsible for his arrest. Directed by Lewis Gilbert, the subject of the following programme.
- 12.05 "Stepping Out" with Lewis Gilbert.** The veteran film director is interviewed on the set of his latest film *Stepping Out*, which stars Liza Minnelli and Julie Walters. There are also clips from the best of his previous films, including *Alfie*, *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine*.
- 12.30 Country File.** On the eve of the English Heritage's annual report, a look at some of historic country houses and estates who can no longer afford the upkeep of their properties. 12.55 *Weather*.
- 1.00 News** followed by *Speaking Volumes*. P.D. James presents reviews of the latest books. Her guests are Sharn MacDonnell, Simon Brett and Philippa Gregory.
- 1.45 Dropcap Double Bill (1)** 2.00 *EastEnders* (r). (Coefax) (s)
- 3.00 Dallas** (s) leaves Southport in search of Cally and his baby; and Clayton recovers from his shock.
- 3.45 Film: The Impress** (1989) starring Michael Caine, Nigel Green and Guy Doleman. Downbeat anti-hero in the James Bond cycle, based on Len Deighton's novel, with Caine as Henry Palmer, the reluctant agent assigned to investigate a supposed "brain drain" among scientists. Slightly directed by Sidney J. Furie. (Coefax) (s)
- 5.35 Safari UK: The Living Isles.** The last in the repeated series on the natural history of the British Isles. (Coefax) (s)
- 6.15 Lifetime.** The latest charity news from Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Liffow; and an appeal on behalf of Extend by Angharad Rees.
- 6.20 News** with Jenny Bond. *Weather*.
- 6.45 Song of Praise** from St Dunstons. (Coefax) (s)
- 7.15 Keeping Up Appearances.** The superb Patricia Routledge almost saves Roy Clarke's starstruck one-joke comedy about a suburban snob. Routledge's Hyacinth is a canny dinner at which she hopes to display her vocal talents. (Coefax) (s)
- 7.45 Bread.** Another comic slice of scouse life with the workaholic Boswell family. (Coefax) (s)
- 8.15 Trainer.** Episode three of the racing soap from the *Howards' Way* stable, following the fortunes of a young trainer. Starring Mark Greenstreet, David McCallum, Susannah York and Nigel Davenport. (Coefax) (s)
- 9.05 News** with Martin Lewis. (Coefax) *Weather*.



On the bridal path: Charlie Drake and Bill Maynard (8.20pm)

- 9.20 Screen One: Filipina Dreamgirls (1991)**
- CHOICE: Andrew Davies' drama of five men from Wales looking for mail order brides in the Philippines is suffused with the quirky comedy to be expected of the author of *A Very Peculiar Practice*. It is a subject that could have sunk by easy laughs but Davies is too perceptive a writer for that. He sees the humor but also the pathos of men who have failed in love travelling half way round the world for a perfect partner. At the same time he presents the women of the Philippines as victims of a society that condemns them to poverty and servitude. Davies is helped by the director, Les Blair, who draws a deliciously droll performance from the outstanding Bill Maynard, a sensitive one from Geoffrey Hutchings and a bright cameo from Charlie Drake. The piece is well paced, lacks pace and could have been shorter but it offers much pleasure, enhanced by the effective use of Philippine locations. (Coefax) (s)
- 11.00 Everyman: They Shoot Children, Don't They.** A documentary following Englishman Bruce Harris's investigations into violent acts against Guatemala City's street children (r)
- 11.50 Japanese - Language and People.** The first of a ten-part series about Japan and the Japanese first shown on BBC2 yesterday afternoon 12.20am *Mahabharat* (r) 1.00 *Weather*

BBC 2

- 6.35 Open University.** Ends at 8.50
- 12.50 Holiday Outings.** Anne Gregg samples a painting course in Provence (r)
- 1.00 Education in Japan: Changing the Mould.** A look at the review of the Japanese education system
- 1.25 Sunday Grandstand** introduced by Helen Roloff. The line-up is (subject to alteration) 1.30 Athletics: the Diet Coke Great North Run from Newcastle. The leading runners for the half marathon are the world 10,000 metres champion, Moses Tanui of Kenya, and the 1990 London marathon winner, Alistair Hutton. In the women's race, last year's winner Rose Mea takes on her perennial rival Ingrid Kristiansen. Behind them some 30,000 runners will chase them home at varying intervals. The commentators are David Coleman, Stuart Storey, Paul Dickinson and Brendan Foster. 3.30 Gymnastics: the world championships from Indianapolis. Coverage of the individual apparatus finale with five gold medals up for grabs - the women's vault and bars and the men's floor, pommel and ring exercises.
- 5.00 Rugby Special.** Highlights of England's world cup warm-up game against Gloucester. The commentator is Nigel Slater-Smith.
- 6.00 This is Your Life (b/w).** Eamonn Andrews springs a surprise on racing driver Stirling Moss (r)
- 6.30 The Model Millionaire (b/w).** In another gem from the archives Alan Whicker meets the Cambridge-Latter, a famous 1950s model, who became the third wife of one of Europe's richest men, Baron Heinrich Thyssen. How does she cope living between her homes in Switzerland, Jamaica and elsewhere? First screened in 1963.
- 7.15 Amazon: The Flooded Forest.** The series of highlights from *The Natural World* continues with the first of a two-part documentary about the Amazon rain forest. The narrator is Anthony Hopkins (r). (Coefax) (s)
- 8.05 Roy Jenkins: The Last Whirl.** Roy Jenkins, now Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, reflects on more than four decades in politics in conversation with *Newsnight* correspondent Anthony Howard



An American tragedy? Lyndon Johnson reassessed (8.35pm)

- 8.35 LBJ.**
- CHOICE: A four-part American documentary on Lyndon B. Johnson promises at least a partial rehabilitation of the president whose reputation was destroyed by the Vietnam war. Yet he seems unlikely to emerge as a sympathetic figure. Eye witnesses testify to his vulgarity, his appalling rages and his willingness to sacrifice principle in pursuit of power. His 1960 election to the Senate is recalled in detail, with the suggestion that he won only because the votes were manipulated. As majority leader, Johnson was a skilled wheeler-dealer but no one knew what he stood for. In 1960 he tried for the presidency and was swept aside by John F. Kennedy. As Kennedy's vice-president, Johnson felt miserable and humiliated and thought his political career was done. Then came Dallas. It is a model case study, crisply assembled and making shrewd use of archive film. Part two is on Thursday.
- 9.35 John Sessions's Tall Tales: The Toy Shop.** Another in the series of surreal one-man plays written and performed by John Sessions and recorded at London's Half Moon Theatre. In this he plays a toy shop assistant who averts a disaster (r)
- 10.00 Piers Power (1989)** starring Richard Gere and Julie Christie. Ponderous drama about a media consultant who comes to despise his politician clients. Directed by the usually reliable Sidney Lumet who covered similar ground to much better effect in his film *Network*.
- 11.50 Film: The Choice (1987).** An African drama about drought-stricken villagers who have to decide whether to wait passively for Western aid or to take matters into their own hands. Directed by Khrisna Dussango. First shown at 1.15am
- NB: (s) indicates stereo

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am** includes, at 8.00 Frost on Sunday, beginning with news
- 8.25 Disney Club.** The guests include pop group Take That
- 10.45 Links.** Do disabled local councillors have a special role to perform? Peter White talks to Labour councillor Leslie Brownhead and Conservative councillor Sir William Lawrence
- 11.00 Morning Worship** from St Andrew's parish church, Dundee
- 12.00 The Human Factor: I Ain't No Dummy.** presented by Rosemary Harthill. A visit to the International Tetraquism Convention in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, attended by some 400 delegates. (Oracle)
- 12.25 Way of the Lakes.** Tony Warburton with the tenth of his 12-part series on the Lake District. 12.55 Regional news and weather
- 1.00 News** with Sue Carpenter. *Weather*
- 1.10 Film: The Amazing Mr Blunden (1972)** starring Dana Dor, Laurence Naismith and Lynne Frederick. A likeable children's fantasy, based on Anthony Barber's novel *The Ghosts*, and sensitively directed by Lionel (The Railway Children) Jeffries.
- 3.00 Dinosaur.** The third of Walter Crinkite's four-part series on prehistoric animals. (Oracle) (s)
- 4.00 The Owl Club**
- CHOICE: A three-part appetiser for the rugby union world cup opens with a look at some of the less fancied nations, such as Western Samoa, Fiji and Japan. Jim Rosenblatt's report eschews analysis of form and prospects in favour of local colour and off-beat angles. In Japan we find a Buddhist monk who at 83 is probably the oldest player in the world, though he seems unlikely to make the international squad. Western Samoa are tipped as possible giant killers, despite a population no bigger than Swindon's. It is revealed that Fiji is the only country to tour New Zealand undefeated. That was in 1939 and the survivor of the Fijian team pops up to tell us about it. A gloomy report from Romania claims that rugby is still in shock after the 1989 revolution, suggesting that the programme was made before the recent Romanian victory over Scotland
- 5.00 Athletics.** Live coverage of the McVitie's challenge from the Don Valley stadium, Sheffield, introduced by Jim Rosenblatt
- 7.00 News** with Sue Carpenter. 7.10 LWT News and weather
- 7.15 The Best of the World (1987)** starring Farrah Fawcett. A lush made-for-television biopic of the seven-times married Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton. Part two is tomorrow evening. Directed by Charles Jarrold. (Oracle)
- 10.10 News** with Sue Carpenter. *Weather* 10.25 LWT *Weather*



Thirty years of smiles: Ian Hislop and Peter Cook (10.30pm)

- 10.30 The South Bank Show.**
- CHOICE: Everyone laughs a lot in Gillian Greenwood's celebration of 30 years of *Private Eye*. Former editor Richard Ingrams can hardly finish a sentence without dissolving into chuckles and it is a disease he has passed on to his successor, Ian Hislop. Founding father Peter Cook adds to the stock of mirth and jokes as he is interviewed by the comedian. The first of a series of films from the magazine, the film traces a joyous path through Lord Gnome, Lunchtime O'Booze and Glenda Slag and in a nice touch has Norman Pace (of Hale and Pace) playing the *Eye's* London cabbie. In more serious vein Paul Potts praises the magazine as the nearest thing in Britain to a free press, though the solemn investigative pieces have always sat oddly with the schoolboy humour. Given the enormous number of writers assigned to the magazine, the big surprise is that it employs a libel lawyer. He laughs as much as anybody
- 11.30 The Chart Show (r)** (s)
- 12.25am Arm Wrestling.** Action from the Pro-Grip UK championships
- 1.20 New Music** presented by Denise Donlan and Jana Lynne
- 2.20 Film: Lust for a Vampire (1970)** starring Ralph Bates and Yvette Steegman. A below-par Hammer horror about a schoolgirl vampire who preys on the blood of her fellow pupils. Directed by Jimmy Sangster
- 4.05 Hodson Confidential.** Men talk about what they want from women in bed
- 4.35 The Magic Wok.** Chinese cookery series
- 5.00 Soap.** More outrageous comedy from the Tate and Campbell families (r)
- 5.30 Morning News.** Ends at 6.00
- NB: (s) indicates stereo

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport.** Sporting news and features (r) 7.00 *Euroopa's Castle.* Cartoons for the under-fives 7.30 *Alfred J Kwak.* Adventures of a musical duck 8.00 *Shirley and George* 8.30 *Kelly.* Adventures of a police dog 8.55 *Kid 'n' Play.* Animation featuring two characters from the film *House Party*
- 9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan.** Indian drama serial set in the state of Mysore during the 18th century. Young Tipu's military training commences while in another part of the kingdom his country is invaded by a neighbouring state. In Hindustani with English subtitles
- 10.00 Dispatches: Rivers of Fire.** A documentary made at the beginning of the Gulf conflict last year about the importance of water to the stability of the Middle East (r)
- 10.45 Dennis. Animated adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends**
- 11.00 Owl TV.** Children's wildlife and environmental series, presented by Michaela Strachan. Today's edition includes visits to zoos in Brownsville and Perth (r). (Teletext)
- 11.30 The Lone Ranger (b/w). Vintage western series starring John Hart as the masked goodie, here pitted against the wicked Durango Kid**
- 12.00 The Waltons.** Homey American family series
- 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Vintage underwater adventures**
- 2.00 Film: Nine Men (1943, b/w)** starring Jack Lambert and Gordon Jackson. Dated second world war flag-waver about a group of British soldiers stranded in the Libyan desert. Directed in quasi-documentary style by Harry Watt
- 3.15 Gaelic Games.** The All-Ireland Gaelic football final between Meath, who survived a tough series of drawn games against Dublin early on in the competition, and the champions of Ulster. The commentators at Croke Park, Dublin, are Ger Ginner and Jack O'Shea
- 5.05 News** summary and weather
- 5.10 Family Ridge.** Drama serial about three Asian families living in the Birmingham area (s)
- 5.40 Film: Dizzy Dicks (1943, b/w)** starring the Three Stooges who develop an unusual plan as the part of the war effort
- 6.00 Channel 4 Racing. International. Rough Scott introduces highlights of this afternoon's Arc trials at Longchamp, Paris**
- 6.30 The Cosby Show. Award-winning American domestic comedy series**
- 7.00 Equinox: Junk Mail. American writer Enk Larson followed his junk mail back to its source and discovered a vast private intelligence network with disturbingly detailed knowledge of his private life. In Britain, the implications of this personal intrusion are only just beginning (r). (Teletext)**
- 8.00 Classic Cars: Red and Sexy. The third in the series for devotees of old cars concentrates on Ferraris**
- 8.30 American Football. The featured game is the San Francisco 49ers at the Minnesota Vikings**



The cruel sea: Michael Kitchen dives to the rescue (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film: The Dive (1989)** starring Michael Kitchen and Frank Grimes. Weak rescue thriller about two divers trapped 110ft in the North Sea. Directed by Tristan De Vere Cole
- 11.50 Film: The Night of Counting the Years.** The first of a new series of films from Africa, India and Asia is an Egyptian-made drama, based on fact, about archaeologists in Cairo who discovered how fragments of ancient treasures became available on the black market. Their investigations lead to the Horraat tribe who for centuries had been living off expensive artefacts plundered from the burial places of mummies. Directed by Shadi Abdel Salam. Ends at 1.45am

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming Diary 1.10 Goals Galore 1.35 The Spectator World of Guinness 2.00-3.00 Southampton International Boat Show 11.20-1.15 Film: The Sicilian Cross

BORDER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10 An Invitation to Remember (Richard Todd) 1.45 Film: The Last Days of Pompeii 2.00-3.00 The Over Globe 4.00-5.00 Dinosaur 11.20-1.15 Film: The Impress 1.45 Books by My Bedside 2.15 Film: No Love for Johnnie 4.15 The ITV Chart Show 5.05-5.30 Jobholder

CENTRAL

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10-3.00 The Secret Garden 11.20-1.15 Film: The Impress 1.45 Books by My Bedside 2.15 Film: No Love for Johnnie 4.15 The ITV Chart Show 5.05-5.30 Jobholder

GRANADA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Challe Chase 1.10 Return Lane 1.35 The A-Team 2.30 Liverpool's Return 3.00 The Coast to Coast 4.00 Dinosaur 5.00 Concerto 5.05-5.30 International Athletics 11.20-1.15 Prisoner

HTV WALES

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10-3.00 The Secret Garden 11.20-1.15 Film: The Impress 1.45 Books by My Bedside 2.15 Film: No Love for Johnnie 4.15 The ITV Chart Show 5.05-5.30 Jobholder

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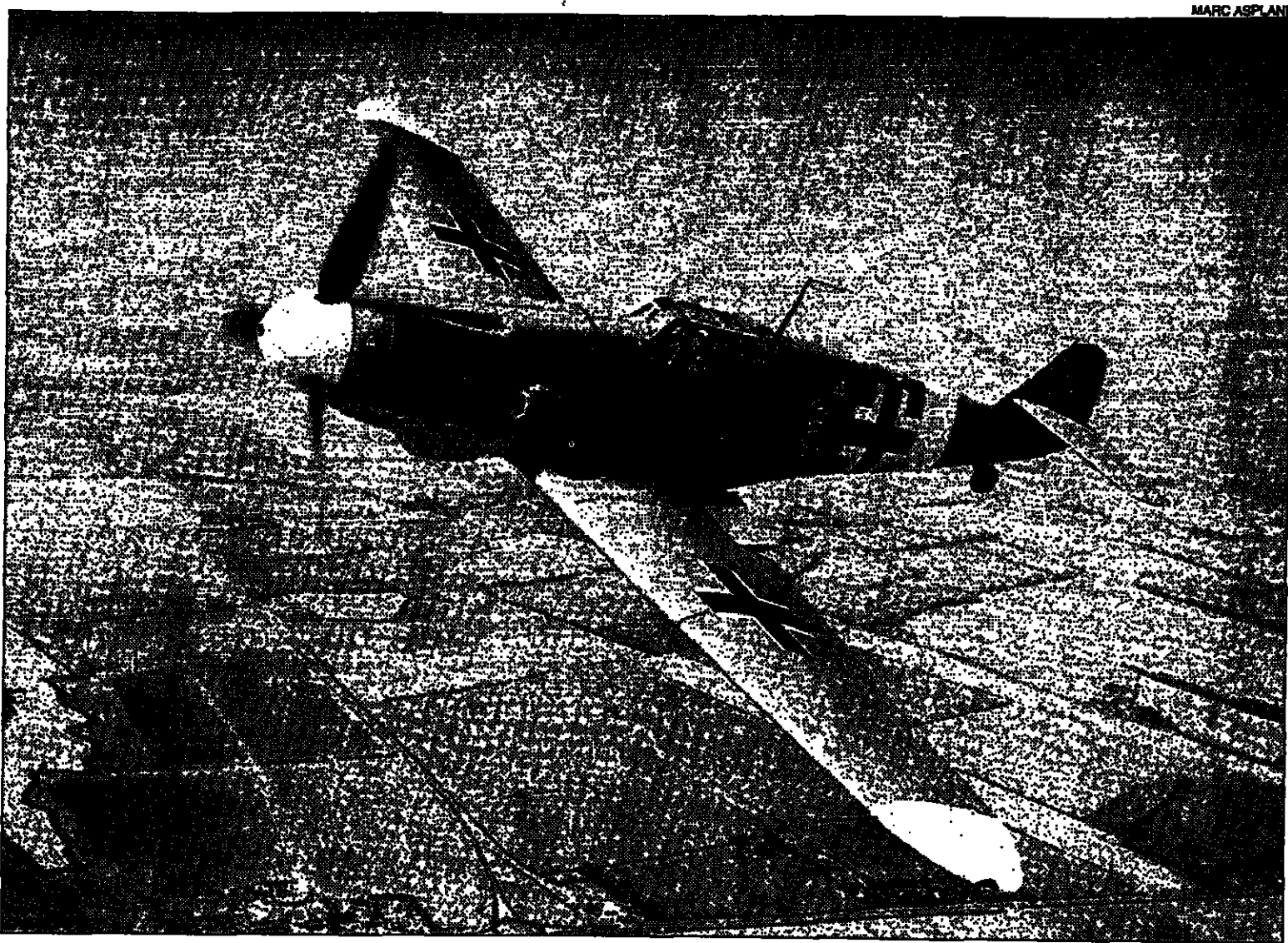
SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Maripoc satellites. 6.00 *Beauty's Bird* (1989). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 7.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 3.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 4.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 5.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 6.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 7.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 8.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 9.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 10.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 11.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model. 12.00 *Hour of Power* (1990). The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 *Animal* (1990). A 30-minute film about a woman who becomes a model.

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Maripoc satellites. 5.30 *Target* 9.30 *Sky News* 11.00 *Target* 11.30 *Target* 11.50 *Target* 12.00 *Target* 12.30 *Target* 12.50 *Target* 1.00 *Target* 1.30 *Target* 1.50 *Target* 2.00 *Target* 2.30 *Target* 2.50 *Target* 3.00 *Target* 3.30 *Target* 3.50 *Target* 4.00 *Target* 4.30 *Target* 4.50 *Target* 5.00 *Target* 5.30 *Target* 5.50 *Target* 6.00 *Target* 6.30 *Target* 6.50 *Target* 7.00 *Target* 7.30 *Target* 7.50 *Target* 8.00 *Target* 8.30 *Target* 8.50 *Target* 9.00 *Target*



Warrior of the skies: the only Messerschmitt still flying with its original Daimler Benz engine will make its air display debut at Duxford in Cambridgeshire tomorrow. Captured in North Africa in 1942, the Bf109G took over 19 years to be restored to operational condition

Marxists meet for rebirth

Continued from page 1
weekend was in fact the "marxist platform within the CPSU" — a group that, despite its name, would regard itself as anything but conservative, and claim to be second to none in its renunciation of the bureaucratic, totalitarian past.

No fewer than three "initiatives" to found a new communist movement emerged out of the meeting. Two of them will probably end up creating groups that simple folk would describe as hard-line; but the third effort — the one headed by Dr Buzgalin and his fellow economist Andrei Koganov — is harder to define. Their record on condemning the coup is irreproachable, and they are not lenient in the usual sense —

they believe that the Soviet state founder should be fully exposed to the rigorous procedures of dialectically based marxist criticism. They do not propose to found a separate new group, but rather to infiltrate a party that is due to be set up anyway by socialists and, would you believe it, anarchists-syndicalists. The fact that communists are again meeting surreptitiously in crumbling blocks of communal apartments is not the only historical reversal of recent days.

Six months ago, a landmark pro-democracy demonstration was organised in Moscow by a young radical deputy called Arkadi Murashev. At a tense showdown with KGB generals — and later arch-

Key Croatian town falls after siege

Continued from page 1
to retrieve its dead and wounded from the area. Luka Bebic, Zagreb's defence minister, pledged that his forces would take back the lost territory "as soon as we get the weapons to do it".

Contact between Serbia and Croatia, other than on the battlefield, is now virtually non-existent. Four Croatian ministers and deputy ministers in the Yugoslav cabinet resigned yesterday.

Lord Carrington, the chairman of the European peace initiative on Yugoslavia, is to visit the country on Monday.

Carrington visit, page 8

Flight from Noah's Ark ends in anaconda's coils

The man who would be king is very mean and does not like taking prisoners. It is a surprise to hear words like "humiliate" and "crush" coming from the lips of someone who looks so boyish and dour, but for Nigel Short chess is more than a game.

It is his mortgage, his lifestyle, his security and his obsession. The lad from Lancashire could become the first English world champion in the history of the game, an unlikely hero with £1 million in the bank.

Before that can happen, he must defeat the great former champion Karpov in the semi-finals, and then hope to win through and overcome Kasparov, who clings to his crown with brilliant tenacity.

For a player of club standard, meeting Short over the board is rather like being slowly crushed to death by an anaconda. He does not go straight for a Tyson-style knock-out but prefers to erect the scaffold slowly, driving in the nails to ensure that when killing time comes, it will work with murderous efficiency.

Tim Jones reports on the morale-crushing ordeal of playing against the ruthless English grandmaster of chess, Nigel Short, who has his sights set on the world title

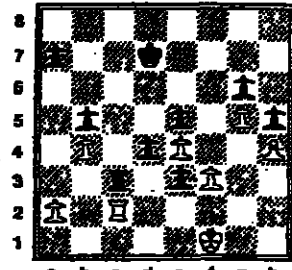
pieces as possible, he would have none of his own with which to mate me.

Unfortunately, Short had his own grand design and began with infinite care to strangle me. He had decided to have some innocent fun and drive me into zugzwang — a position in which there are only bad moves left. Grandmasters refer to it as Volkswagen, small and cramped.

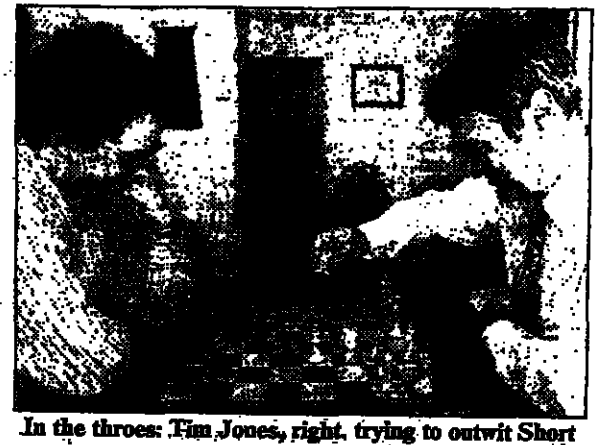
So, so that at first I did not understand what was happening, Short got very nasty indeed until my f2 pawn was under more pressure than an Iraqi trench during the Gulf war.

do not know whether I have reached my peak or if I can improve. Fortunately, we cannot see into the future.

Before leaving, I asked Nigel Short whether he thought he would be the next world chess champion. "I doubt it somehow. Chess is so infinite. There are so many things to learn." But the lad from Lancashire was smiling as he said it.

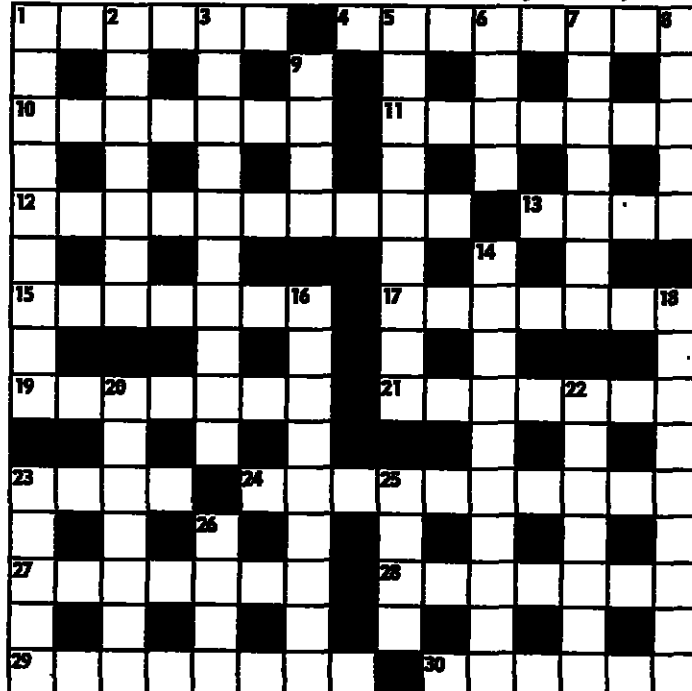


Jones: white, Short: black
1 e4 e5 24 f1 e5
2 Nf3 Nf6 25 cxd4 cxd4
3 Bc4 Qd7 26 b4 c5
4 O-O Nc6 27 c1 Qc7
5 Nc3 e6 28 Rxc7 Rxc7
6 Rxf7 Nxf7 29 Qd2 Rf8
7 d3 e5 30 Qc7 Rf7
8 Re1 Bc7 31 g3 Rf8
9 Bb4 O-O 32 Kg2 Rg5
10 Kf2 Nf6 33 Nd4 b6
11 Ne2 e5 34 f3 b5
12 Bc2 Nc6 35 Nf2 h5
13 Nc3 Nc5 36 g4 g6
14 Qc2 Qd7 37 Qf2 Rf7
15 Ng5 Qc7 38 Rf2 Nc6
16 Nc3 Nc5 39 Rf2 Nc6
17 Bb5 Rf8 40 Nf2 Rf8
18 Bc3 Bb4 41 Nf2 Rf8
19 Nf2 Nc6 42 Nf2 Rf8
20 Nf2 Nc6 43 Nf2 Rf8
21 Qc2 Qd7 44 Nf2 Rf8
22 Rf2 Nc6 45 Rf2 Rf8
23 Bc4 e6 Resigns

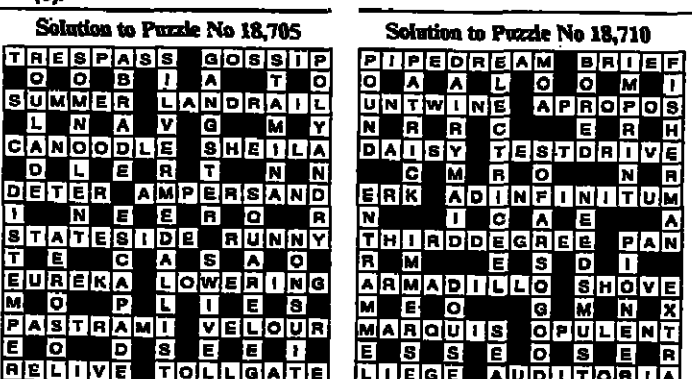


In the three: Tim Jones, right, trying to outwit Short

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,711



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sink, wearing undergarment (6).
 - 4 Like an all-in wrestler or boxer after exertion? (3-5).
 - 10 Frenchwoman who wrote many an unfinished love-letter (7).
 - 11 Last part of solo or part of a duet (7).
 - 12 Way old policeman gets the bird (10).
 - 13 Christian martyr's shroud, say (4).
 - 15 Lout was disorderly in bars (7).
 - 17 Stop going to school, given chance at university (5,2).
 - 19 Shakespeare's man of many parts in middle age (7).
 - 21 Import a royal vessel (7).
 - 23 Place for retirement? Nonsense! (4).
 - 24 Wear this out, in a way? Athlete might (10).
 - 27 Performing with small group going round a province (7).
 - 28 Metal collected out of containers is useful, initially (7).
 - 29 Game in which an enjoyable time is on the cards (8).
 - 30 For example, collect a mantis? (6).
- DOWN**
- 2 Contract debts without interest (9).
 - 3 Arch-rival Ian toppled, so stout-hearted (7).
 - 5 Wild Australian merry-making (10).
 - 6 Main base where natives lie low? (6-3).
 - 7 Friar scoffed at school (4).
 - 8 Struggled wine and plunder (7).
 - 9 Eccentric Liberal peer sent up (5).
 - 10 Destroyed when cut (4).
 - 14 Writer of limited vision, like Gower (10).
 - 16 Way inexperienced girl gives test of opinion (5,4).
 - 18 Person sometimes employed to send carriage up (4-5).
 - 20 Desire to name heavyweight (4,3).
 - 22 Oxbridge college men in boat, for example (7).
 - 23 One Army leader the assassin of another (5).
 - 25 Leading article amusing no-one (4).
 - 26 Food for the literary hack (4).



A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

- PARCENER**
a. To weed or hoe
b. A seller of indulgences
c. A joint heir
- ESTACADE**
a. A beef steak
b. A pass at bull-fighting
c. A pile of piles
- STRASS**
a. To distress
b. A soldier's knapsack
c. Paste for making gems
- CHEKMATIST**
a. A monetarist
b. A make-up expert
c. A milk-maid

Answers on page 15

AA ROADWORTHY

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadworthy is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0950 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Gwyd	715
W & S Yorks & Dale	716
N.E. England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S.W. Scotland	719
W. Central Scotland	720
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	721
E. Central Scotland	722
Glasgow & E. Highlands	723
N.W. Scotland	724
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	725
N. Ireland	726

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 15

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: J. Patimore, Millstream, Fensford, Avon; A. J. Griggs, Foreland Square, Deal, Kent; A. J. Alder, Carisbrooke, Clonsilla, Titchborne Down, Abresford, Hampshire; J. Henry, Drunmillan Hill, Greenock; G. R. McMillan, Hookfield, Epsom, Surrey.

England and Wales should start dry apart from a little drizzle on western coasts and hills, but rain will affect all but the south-east before the day's end. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with gales possible later in the far north-west. There will be a good deal of cloud at first with outbreaks of rain. It should turn brighter and more showery later. Outlook: showers or longer spells of rain for most.

MIDLANDS	W. MIDLANDS	E. MIDLANDS	S. MIDLANDS	S. EAST	S. WEST	W. MIDLANDS	E. MIDLANDS	S. MIDLANDS	S. EAST	S. WEST
Alcester	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Almondsbury	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Alton	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Alton	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Alton	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
Alton	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Alton	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Alton	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Alton	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Alton	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Alton	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Alton	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
Alton	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Alton	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Alton	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Alton	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Alton	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Alton	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
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Jo'burg	20	65	c	Tunis	30	86	a		
Karachi	27	81	c	Valencia	28	82	c		
Katmandu	28	82	c	Vancouver	29	83	c		
Libanon	25	77	f	Verona	25	77	f		
Locarno	19	65	f	Vienne	15	59	c		
Londra	28	82	c	Wien	21	73	c		
L. Angeles	19	65	c	Wush'ron	24	75	c		
Losange	20	68	c	W'erton	18	61	c		
London	28	82	c	Zurich	17	63	c		

c denotes figures are latest available

Australia \$	2,38	2.1	
Austria Sch	21,60	20.8	
Belgium F	30,12	29.5	
Canada \$	2,075	1.95	
Denmark Kr	11,61	11.1	
Finland Mk	7,15	7.0	
France Ft	10,36	9.7	

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The Fed cut was followed within minutes by leading commercial banks, spearheaded by Morgan Guaranty Trust, which lowered their prime lending rates by a half point to 8 per cent, taking the rates to their lowest for four years. Prime rates form the basis for calculating interest on consumer credit and loans to businesses.

By MATTHEW BOND AND ANGELA MACKAY

By Our City Staff

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

By JONATHAN PRYNN



Sugar: Tottenham advance

From TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

1. **Example of a non-mortgage loan taken from the Security.** Example: Married couple aged 40 years and 28 years, both non-smokers, applying for an endowment insurance policy for 25 years, with monthly premium of £100, central agent's property being purchased for £100,000. If monthly mortgage payments are £1,000, the 25-monthly mortgage payments will be £25,000 per month. Total amount payable £26,000, calculated as follows: £25,000 + £1,000. Exclusions for Special Insurance Premiums (Below £1,000).

When strong words failed Fimbria

There was an unseemly scramble for the exits this week as building societies, solicitors, and the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers regulatory association (Fimbria) blamed each other and the naivety of investors for the sale and marketing of home investment income plans.

None of the participants in this sorry tale should be exonerated. These disastrous plans were sold to elderly people mainly in the two years between 1988 and 1990. A buoyant stock market and a booming housing market looked as if they were here to stay.

Financial advisers took this wonderful opportunity for linking the two together and earning a nice commission on the way. There was a commission from the insurance company whose bond the money was put into and another from the building society for introducing the mortgage business. If the broker put an investor's money into his own broker bond, managed by himself, there were

particularly good opportunities for switching money in and out of the fund, on the grounds that he was making the most of investment opportunities.

These brokers were not about to explain the risks of putting large sums of money into the stock market when this money was desperately needed to make monthly mortgage repayments. Now, many of the people who unwittingly took their advice have seen their capital eroded and their homes threatened.

As long ago as 1989, Fimbria issued a warning to its members that these plans were risky. At the end of last year, it told its members that it could not see how the plans could be suitable "in today's climate". But one of the brokers selling the plans was only suspended this week.

Fimbria says it has no power to ban sales of certain sorts of



COMMENT

SARA
McCONNELL

products. It does have the power to suspend and should have moved much more quickly. It should also have worded its warning much more strongly, making it clear that these plans are never suitable for elderly people who cannot afford to take risks with their homes and their capital.

Fimbria admitted this week it was partly to blame, but turned on building societies and solicitors whom it said also had a responsibility to clients. Trying to turn the blame on others is an old trick, but in this case Fimbria was right. The building societies who so

eagerly marketed these plans say that they do not consider it any business of theirs what a borrower does with a mortgage. They expect Fimbria members introducing business to have checked whether their client has the income to meet the mortgage repayments.

This argument does not hold water. If the introducer and the building society have a cosy little relationship, the introducer is hardly likely to risk foregoing his commission and losing the whole deal by pointing out that the applicant is a pensioner whose only income will come from a

bond which the broker has either chosen or is managing.

Building societies lent this money indiscriminately to people whose financial circumstances they took on trust. They should now negotiate new arrangements for people to pay what they can afford, as the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has done with some of its customers.

Fair shares

Divorced wives should have a claim on their former husbands' pensions when they reach retirement age. So said Robin Ellison of Ellison Westthorp, the solicitors, earlier this week. On the face of it, this is a fair proposal. Women who sacrifice their right to a separate occupational pension by

staying at home and raising the children have effectively earned a share in their husbands' pension. If the marriage breaks down, they should not lose out.

Unfortunately, Mr Ellison does not suggest a simple way of dividing the spoils. A divorce court faced with assessing the potential pension of a healthy man of 38, and then calculating how much of it his divorcing wife is entitled to, is entering a minefield. Former husbands have a habit of remarrying. They may change jobs, become unemployed or take early retirement. They may even die.

The most common solution at the moment is to allow wives to keep the family home, while husbands get sole rights to the pension fund. However, the value of the property is often much lower than that of the pension, especially given that women normally live longer than men.

Until someone comes up with an equitable way of dealing with the problem, the only way most wives can be sure of protecting their rights is to stay married.

Flood of claims swells building cover costs

By SARA McCONNELL

MOST householders will end the winter paying more in buildings insurance premiums than they do now. Huge claims for storm damage and flooding at the beginning of last year, as well as subsidence caused by two dry summers, are likely to mean a doubling of premiums in the Southeast where claims have been highest. Excesses could also be introduced on claims for storm damage.

Generally, however, higher premiums will not mean that householders get more cover for their money. If there are storms this winter, many are likely to find themselves underinsured, either because the house is not insured for the full cost of rebuilding or because the claim falls under one of the storm damage exclusions common to most insurance policies.

Others could find the payout does not cover the whole cost of repairs.

The total cost to insurance companies of storm damage last year after the storms of January and February was £2 billion, with more than 3 million claims from householders, according to the Association of British Insurers (ABI).

There were three times more claims than after the storms of 1987 and one in every eight households made a claim. ABI figures out this week also showed that subsidence claims more than doubled to £277 million in the first six months of this year.

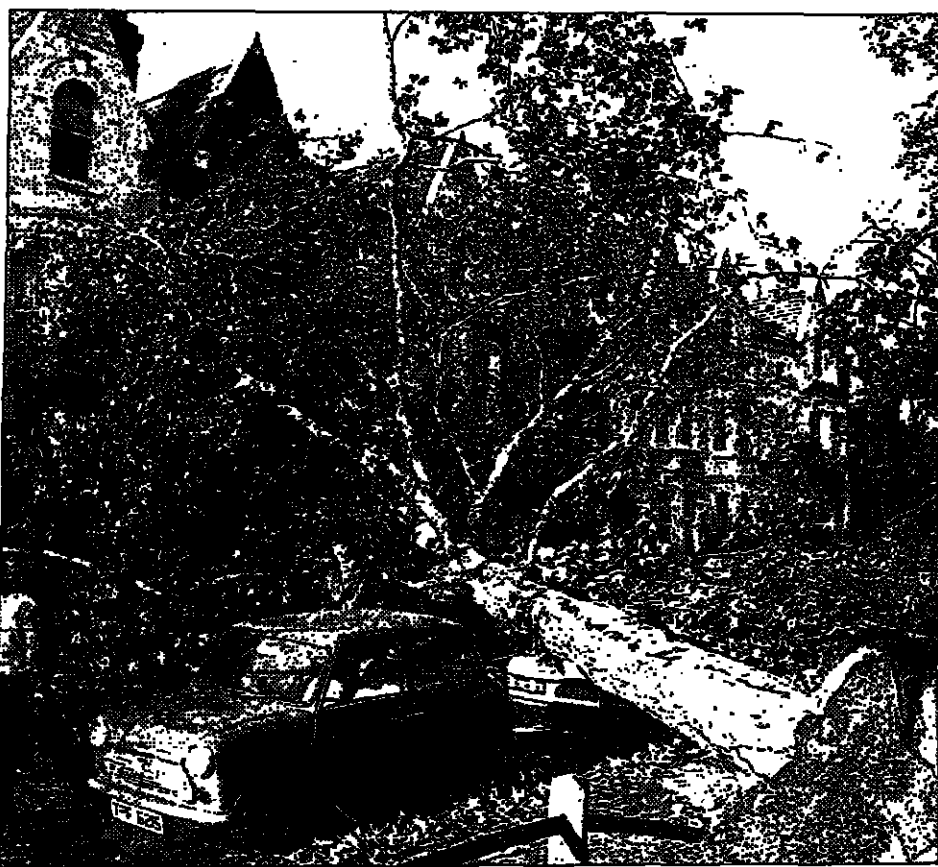
For the first time, all major household insurers are starting to charge premiums based on regions, with those areas hardest hit by storms, floods and especially subsidence, paying more.

Previously, everyone paid a flat rate of about £2.20 per £1,000 worth of cover. Guardian Royal Exchange is the latest to announce that it will be charging more for the majority of householders.

The company is about to charge £3.50 per £1,000 worth of cover in the Southeast, South and Southwest, about half as much again as the £2.20 per £1,000 they were paying before.

Householders in Scotland and Northern Ireland will pay £1.80 per £1,000, less than before.

GRE will also double the excess on subsidence cover in some areas to £1,000 from



Path of destruction: storm damage has dealt a severe blow to insurance premiums

December 1 when the new premiums come in.

Sun Alliance, the largest household insurer, will charge £1,000 excess from October 1 and is finalising plans to charge between £1.80 and £4 for every £1,000 of cover.

GRE said: "The move is mainly in response to an increase in subsidence claims but there has been an increase in claims from storm and flood damage."

"Both the storms last year came in from the south and hit the Southeast. Severe frosts often hit the north and there are prospects of floods in west and north Wales. In reality, insurers will try and spread the assessment."

Royal Insurance and Norwich Union have already announced their new banded premiums.

Most Norwich Union policyholders in the Southeast have started to pay £2.40 per £1,000 sum insured, up from £2. Many in the north will pay £1.80 per £1,000. Royal is now charging between £1.80 and £4 per £1,000, up from £2.20.

Insurers say they are still feeling their way on premiums and if there is bad weather this winter leading to more claims from areas previously badly hit, then premiums could go up even more. Unlike sub-

sidence, however, storms and floods can hit any part of the country at any time.

Gerald Eaton, personal insurance manager at Legal & General, said: "In theory we have to anticipate that there will be storms in the next five years and this could strike anywhere."

"Some insurers think there should be a flat rate element for storm damage for everyone, while others say storms have a tendency to hit the Southeast. Severe frosts often hit the north and there are prospects of floods in west and north Wales. In reality, insurers will try and spread the assessment."

The most violent storms, in 1987 and 1990, devastated many properties in the Southeast, the most densely populated area of the country. Trees falling through roofs, falling masonry and high winds resulted in many houses having to be virtually rebuilt.

Before winter starts in earnest, householders should check that the sum insured on their policy is enough to cover the rebuilding costs of the house. The rebuilding value is not the same as the market value.

Mike Brayne, property

underwriting manager at Eagle Star, said: "If there are two houses exactly the same but one overlooks the golf course and the other overlooks the sewerage works, the market value of the house will be different. But the rebuilding costs are still exactly the same."

Insurers cannot pay out more than the sum insured, so householders must check they have the right level of cover. They should also make sure that their sum insured is indexed to cover inflation on rebuilding costs.

If fences, gates or hedges are blown down in a storm or washed away in a flood, however, they will not be covered.

Legal & General's Mr Eaton said: "Wooden fences aren't insured because they deteriorate rapidly and secretly. This causes a lot of trauma because perimeter fences cost a lot of money."

"People tend to make assumptions about what is covered without reading their policies."

Sun Alliance, Eagle Star, Commercial Union and Norwich Union also say they will not cover fences. But damage to swimming pools, tennis courts or immovable beds and pots is covered by most insurers, as is the cost of removing fallen trees. Damage to movable objects will not normally be covered under the buildings policy.

All insurance policies will have a clause saying home owners have to keep the house in reasonable condition. If roofs are not repaired or drainpipes not secured and they are then damaged in a storm, insurers could hold back some of the payment for wear and tear.

Those planning to spend a lot of time away, or who have moved out of their home altogether after trying unsuccessfully to sell, must tell their insurer.

Homes left unoccupied and minimally or unfurnished for more than 60 or sometimes 30 days, will not be covered against theft, water damage, glass damage or malicious damage unless the owner pays an extra charge. A storm could leave them severely out of pocket.

Helpline came to rescue after storm wrecked house

ONE midnight in January last year, Denby Richards and his wife, Rhonda, were woken by the sound of the guttering being ripped off the side of their Victorian house on the coast at Hastings, East Sussex (Sara McConnell writes).

When the couple went out into the garden to investigate, they greeted by the sight of the chimney leaning at a dangerous angle, buffeted by the high winds of the 1990 hurricane.

The flat roof of the bathroom had been torn off, destroying the bathroom in the process.

Their local builder responded immediately to their call at 2.30am but could do nothing about the chimney. Unfortunately, "the world and his wife were calling builders and insurers the next morning", so Mr Richards looked at his insurance policy to see whether there was a helpline that could find him a builder.

His AA insurance policy included a helpline from International Assistance Services, part of Sun Alliance.

Most buildings policies now include helplines that will find a local builder or plumber in an emergency.

Mr Richards said: "I'm the sort of person who counts these things, and they answered the phone after eight rings."

"Within an hour and a half, at 9.30 in the morning after the hurricane, these chaps had scaled up and wrapped things round the chimney."

"They told me that another gust of wind would have sent it falling through the roof. The

important thing was that directly under it was a 150-year-old grand piano and the chimney falling on it would have been a disaster."

The insurance company took two weeks to send the loss adjuster and the redecoration of the house took up to five months.

Like Mr Richards, Alan and Patricia Jenkins of Caterham, Surrey, were relieved to be properly insured when last year's hurricane uprooted a huge beech tree in the next door garden and sent it crash-

ing into their garage. Fortunately, there was minimal damage to the house and no car in the garage, but it did contain the gas main.

Mr Jenkins said: "On my way home in the train, and I had great difficulty getting home, it suddenly occurred to me that the gas main was in the garage and I hoped my wife wouldn't have turned anything on by mistake. I was relieved to see the lights on."

The Jenkins' next door neighbour, called a tree surgeon to come and remove it, then Mr Jenkins took some photographs of the damage and made a claim on his Eagle Star policy bought with the mortgage, through the Halifax building society.

The main difficulty was that three insurers were involved, the Eagle Star, and those of the neighbours on each side. The trunk of the tree had also damaged another neighbour's garage.

After a hold-up while the insurers negotiated, the repairs were finished by the summer.

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Mortgage providers lose their competitive edge

Borrowers locked in high rates

By Liz Dolan

THOUSANDS of homebuyers are trapped in higher rate mortgages because their lenders have lost interest in drumming up new business. With the competitive edge gone, loan providers are tending to take longer to cut rates and to reduce them by narrower margins than competitors still actively seeking business.

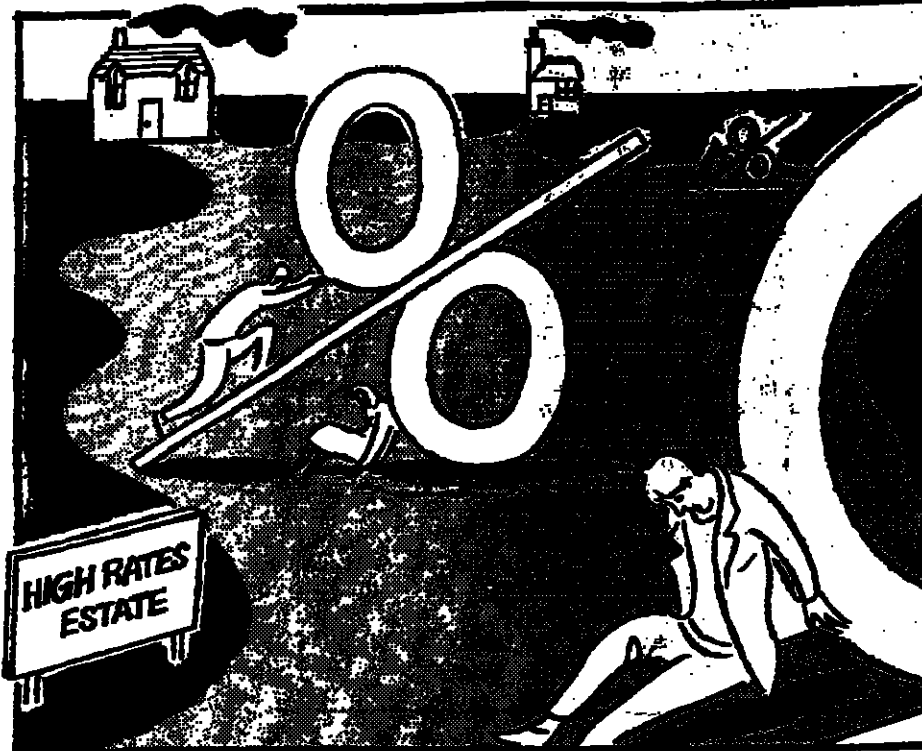
Boston Safe, a bank that has been looking for a way out of the mortgage market for some time, has finally consented to release its borrowers from a rate of 13.25 per cent. The bank has just announced a 1 per cent reduction in its variable rate to 12.25 per cent from October 3: still about 0.75 per cent higher than that charged by most of the major building societies.

The bank said that borrowers were paying a premium for their mortgage because Boston Safe was "a high quality institution". It is no longer trying to attract new lenders and is seeking a buyer for its mortgage book.

Another lender that has lost the stomach for new business is CIBC. It reduced its variable rate from a hefty 12.95 per cent to a still-onerous 12.15 per cent on September 4, but the bank vehemently denied that it charged more than average because it no longer needed to be competitive.

CIBC said: "We will track the market down and will announce the next cut at the appropriate time."

A glaring example of differing attitudes is provided by the two leading institutions owned by the TSB. Mortgage customers of the bank have



just been granted a 0.45 per cent cut to 11.5 per cent from October 4.

The 50,000 customers of Mortgage Express, the bank's centralised lending subsidiary, however, are not so lucky. On the same date, their rate falls to 12.45 per cent, almost 1 per cent higher than that charged by ME's parent, and a reduction of only 0.3 per cent on the current rate of 12.75. Before August 4, borrowers were paying 13.95 per cent.

The TSB claims that ME borrowers are higher risk. ME, set up in late 1986, markets its products through brokers and its mortgages are much more likely to have complicated

features, such as low start or deferred interest payments. As a centralised lender, it is also totally dependent on fluctuations in wholesale money rates rather than the bank base rates that govern the rate offered by the bank.

Mortgage Express has effectively withdrawn from the new mortgage market and, if not officially for sale, makes little secret of its willingness to sell its mortgage book.

When Chase Manhattan sold out of the mortgage market last December, many of its borrowers were struggling with a 16.25 per cent mortgage rate.

This rate applied to all

existing borrowers, who were not an annual review system. Chase's official variable rate had been reduced to 15.5 per cent during the year, but new business had, in practice, dried up because the bank had pulled up the drawbridge after announcing its intention to withdraw from the market.

A worthy exception, on the surface at least, was Westpac, the Australian bank, which, like Chase, has now sold its mortgage book to the Household Mortgage Corporation. Up to the time it handed over the business to HMC, Westpac nobly stuck to a policy of bringing down rates in line with other lenders.

Cynics suggest such public benevolence could indicate an intention to return to the market at a more propitious time.

The HMC, a centralised lender dependent on brokers for sales, is currently narrowing the gap that developed between its rates and those of competitors with access to savers' funds and high street borrowers.

HMC admits that its rates were "totally uncompetitive" a year ago, when wholesale market rates were also high. The lender argues, however, that the margin has been disappearing slowly.

The company's latest rate reduction to 11.95 per cent on September 1 brought it into line with those currently charged by major building societies, such as the Halifax. Although the latter is due to change again next month, HMC promises another reduction soon.

The lender said that mortgages from the HMC and its ilk tended to be cheaper than their high street cousins when new borrowers were thick on the ground, but more expensive than the rest when the market was sluggish.

In the summer of 1988, when homebuyers went into overdrive in the run-up to the abolition of double mortgage tax relief, the HMC's borrowers paid interest of only 9.25 per cent, compared with the 9.8 per cent charged by the Halifax.

The Mortgage Corporation, a direct competitor to the HMC, is planning to reduce its variable rate by "at least 0.5 per cent" from the current 12.49 per cent in October.

Savers face falling returns

By Sara McConnell

THE main high street banks have started to cut rates on savers' accounts and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) after last week's base rate cut.

Barclays, National Westminster, Lloyds, The Royal Bank of Scotland and TSB have all cut their Tessa rates between 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent.

Barclays, the largest of the four main high street banks, has cut its Tessa rate 1 per cent to 11 per cent gross. Gross rates on the capital advantage account have fallen from 9.5 per cent to 8.9 per cent on balances of between £10,000 and £24,999. Net rates are down from 7.13 per cent to 6.68 per cent. The gross rate on balances of more than £50,000 is now 10 per cent, down from 10.5 per cent, while the net rate is 7.5 per cent, down from 7.88 per cent. Higher rate deposit account rates have been cut between

0.45 per cent and 0.5 per cent gross. Net rates are down between 0.34 per cent and 0.35 per cent.

The net rate on interest-bearing current accounts is now 2.06 per cent, down from 2.63 per cent. The gross rate is 2.75 per cent, down from 3.5 per cent.

National Westminster Bank has cut its Tessa rate 0.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent. The new gross compound annual rate (CAR) on the Tessa is 10.92 per cent, down from 11.73 per cent. Gross rates on the bank's premium reserve account have dropped 0.75 per cent to 9.125 per cent on balances of between £2,000 and £9,999, and 9.75 per cent on balances of £25,000 or more. Net rates have fallen on the same account by 0.59.

Lloyds' new Tessa rate is 10.5, down from 11 per cent. Investment account rates have been cut by half a percentage point to between

8.4 per cent gross, 6.3 per cent net on balances of between £5,000 and £10,000. Balances of more than £50,000 earn 10.4 per cent gross, 7.8 per cent net.

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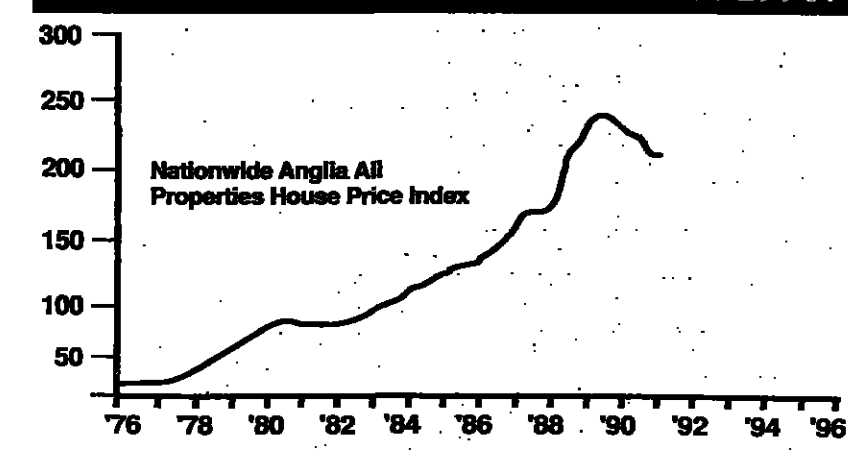
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*The APR of 11.8% (variable) is calculated on an £35,000 over 25 years on a property valued at £50,000. The gross monthly payment is £263.42 for the first three months. Thereafter the monthly payment will be £227.71 for 297 months, assuming that the variable base mortgage rate continues at 11.7%. The Total Amount Payable is £132,622.30 which includes average legal fees of £103.40 (representative), less the Society's contribution of £100, redemption charge (England and Wales) of £17.35, 12 months Masterkey premium of £32 per month, deeds production fee of £30, valuing fee of £40, one repayment of £35,000 and accrued interest of £132.64. Accrued interest is the amount required to be paid to ensure that the assumed term of your mortgage is not exceeded as the balance of your account does not increase. Any Endowment premium will be payable direct to the Life Assurance Company. A written quotation is available on request. A suitable life policy may be required as security. For loans in excess of 75% of valuation an insurance guarantee premium becomes payable. Applications subject to normal lending criteria.

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Legal action: Maria Ludkin, of Barnett Sampson, is representing 15 elderly clients

Elderly in homes for income peril

By Sara McConnell

A FIRM of London solicitors is hoping to take legal action on behalf of up to 15 elderly clients who invested in home investment income plans. Some are in danger of losing their homes because they cannot keep up payments on mortgages they were persuaded to take out as part of the plan.

Barnett Sampson, based in the West End, has put a representative sample of cases to a Queen's Counsel (QC) for an opinion on whether there is a case against the building societies that granted mortgages, the advisers that sold the schemes and the financial intermediaries managers and brokers regulatory association (Fimbra) that regulates the brokers. Counsel is expected to give an opinion next week.

Fimbra this week suspended Acorn Insurance & Mortgage Consultants, a broker which specialised in selling home investment income plans. Two other brokers, Fisher Prew-Smith and Aylesbury Associates, have already been suspended. All three brokers sold plans to Barnett Sampson clients. Fisher Prew-Smith put clients' money into a broker bond called the FPS Income and Growth bond investing in

high risk securities. Fimbra received 104 complaints about the firm. At the end of last year, the regulator told its members it could not see how this type of plan could be considered suitable in present stock market and housing conditions.

Under a home investment income plan, elderly people take out a mortgage on their homes and invest the money in an investment bond. The theory is that the bond value will appreciate, covering the interest payments on the mortgage and leaving some income.

In the past two years, however, a falling stock market has wiped out most of the value of the bonds. At the same time, interest rates rose, pushing monthly payments out of reach for many people on fixed incomes, and property values fell.

Maria Ludkin, litigation solicitor at Barnett Sampson, said: "Some of our clients were told that the mention of mortgages was just jargon and that there was no way they could lose their homes. These are all elderly people and many of them are worried sick."

"Some are very close to

having their homes repossessed."

The Cheltenham & Gloucester and Town & Country building societies both granted mortgages to elderly customers on equity release schemes.

C&G customers were told about the plan run by Aylesbury Associates, based in Bromley, if they wanted to borrow a higher sum than was available under the society's own plan. The C&G stopped this in April last year having sold £14 million of mortgages between April 1989 and June 1990.

The C&G said: "If business was introduced to us, we would accept what the intermediary said about the client's ability to pay. Many borrowers seem not to have taken independent financial or legal advice before putting their money into these investments."

Ian Bell, of the Town & Country, said the society no longer offered its Capital Release Scheme, where mortgages were granted to elderly people and interest rolled up to be paid on death. The society, however, did not know what clients were doing with the money after the mortgages had been granted.

Comment, page 23

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Compounded at 40%	May/June Investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.50	2.55	2.12	none/none	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	6.94	6.94	5.55	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	6.23	6.23	4.98	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Midland	6.47	6.47	5.18	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
NatWest	6.56	6.56	5.23	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528655
	6.42	6.42	5.14	10,000-no max	3 mth	071-728 1000
	6.36	6.36	5.05	10,000-24,000	6 mth	071-728 1000

BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 mth	none	
Best buy - largest socs:						
Portman	7.50	7.50	6.24	500 mth	none	
Britannia	9.11	9.11	7.29	2,000 mth	none	
Northern Rock	9.00	9.00	7.20	40,000 mth	30 day	
Slipstream	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,500 mth	30 day	
Bradford & Bingley	9.25	9.25	7.40	25,000 mth	1 year	
Best buy - all socs:						
Southdown	8.25	8.25	6.60	1 mth	none	
Belmont & West	7.50	7.50	6.00	500 mth	30 day	
National County	9.11	9.11	7.29	20,000 mth	30 day	
Slipstream	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,500 mth	30 day	
Bradford & Bingley	9.25	9.25	7.40	25,000 mth	1 year	
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax	3.41	3.41	2.73	50 mth	Rates rise	
Card Cash						
Alliance & Leic	3.88	3.88	2.94	25 mth	with larger	
Cash Plus						
Nationwide	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 mth	balances	
Anglia Plus						

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c	10.25	7.68	6.15	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond	11.00	8.25	6.60	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 56151
Deposit Bond	11.50	8.25	6.60			041-649-4555
30th Issue Cert	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-5,000	8 day	081-385 4900
Yearly Plan	8.50	8.50	8.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-385 4900
General						
Extension Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	11.50	8.62	6.90	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
New Direction Plan	8.75	8.75	7.44	5,000 mth	1 yrs	Figures from
Skandia Life	9.00	9.00	7.65	3,000 mth	2 yrs	Chase de
Chase de Vore	9.15	9.15	7.78	5,000 mth	3 yrs	Vare
Provident Cap	9.35	9.35	7.95	25,000 mth	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Consolidated Life	9.50	9.50	8.08	2,000 mth	5 yrs	for details

RPI (Aug 90-91)	+4.7%	Holiday rates	£ bags
Bank Base Rate	10.5%	Spanish Pesetas:	177.00
Personal Loan	24%	French Francs:	9.73
Credit Card	18-32%	Greek Drachmas:	314.00
		Italian Lira:	214.00

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Card issuers cover Prowse loss

By Liz Dolan

PEOPLE who used credit cards to buy tickets from Keith Prowse, the ticket agency that collapsed last Monday, are unlikely to be out of pocket, despite the fact that most of them are not covered under the Consumer Credit Act.

Under the act, only credit card transactions worth more than £100 are protected in the event of business failure. The purchase of each individual ticket is considered to be a separate transaction, so most of the business conducted by Prowse consisted of purchases worth less than £100 and, therefore, technically unprotected.

Nevertheless, most credit card issuers have spent the week reassuring customers that their losses will be re-

imbursed. Even the National Westminster Bank, which seemed bent on corporate suicide early on by announcing that only Gold Card customers would be protected, has now come to its senses and extended the offer to all cardholders. The bulk of its customers were already upset about the bank's recent decision to impose credit card charges.

Barclays stole a march on its rivals by announcing within hours of Prowse's demise that none of its card customers would suffer.

The bank said: "We don't like to see our customers lose out, and we didn't want them to lose confidence in the safety of credit cards."

American Express, which deals primarily in charge cards

that are not covered by the act, has said all cardholders will be reimbursed for tickets rendered invalid or not received. It has also promised to help customers find alternative tickets for shows and sports events. Cardholders should ring 0273 696933 for details.

Lloyds wasted little time in following Barclays' lead and Midland fell into line soon after. Cardholders will not have to pay for tickets if they were unable to gain access to the event for which the tickets had been issued.

A number of theatres and sports bodies have said they will honour all tickets at least over this weekend. West End theatres have also said that they would honour tickets bought through Keith Prowse indefinitely.

THE VIEW FROM SAVE & PROSPER

UNITED KINGDOM

Economy coming out of recession - buy.

■ Rights issues are re-emerging and these may hold the market back short term.

■ After the recent cut of 0.5%, base rates are expected to be at 10% before the end of the year.

■ Imports are showing signs of increasing. This is good news for the domestic economy as it suggests the consumer is returning.

■ We expect a period of consolidation, following the recent string gains which has seen both the FTSE 100 and FTA All-Share Index break through their previous highs. The market should move ahead again during the fourth quarter 1991.

Recommended Save & Prosper Funds: *Smaller Companies Income Fund* and *UK Smaller Companies Growth Fund* for revival of interest in smaller companies. *High Return Unit Trust* as a long-term core holding. Also consider *Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio* PEP for tax-free investment.

UNITED STATES

Economic recovery now under way - hold.

■ Economy appears likely to be growing in line with original expectations. Durable goods orders for July month-on-month were the strongest for 20 years.

■ Company earnings growth for 1992 is estimated at +25%.

■ Yesterday's easing of the discount rate by 0.5% should further stimulate the economy.

■ Companies are much more streamlined today than in the early 1980s, earnings therefore should recover quickly.

Recommended Save & Prosper Fund: *American Smaller Companies Fund* for continuing outperformance by smaller companies.

JAPAN

Bear market bottom - a definite buy.

■ Economy is slowing down on target. Weakness in corporate profits is being discounted.

■ With the economy slowing, the next interest rate cut could take place before October.

■ Bond market continues to improve, providing the equity market with strong support.

■ Economic upturn expected first quarter 1992. Markets typically anticipate good news 6 months ahead and should start to reflect this shortly in valuations (as the UK stock market has done).

■ Scandals continue to dog Japanese institutions but the stock market now appears to be taking them in its stride.

Recommended Save & Prosper Fund: *Japan Growth Fund* for outperformance by larger companies in a falling interest rate environment.

PACIFIC REGION

Good opportunities in certain markets - buy.

■ Hong Kong has been subject to short term profit-taking given its outstanding performance so far this year. However, long-term value still exists.

■ Rising interest rates in Malaysia have led to poor market performance, in particular, hitting consumer related stocks.

■ In Thailand, interest rates and inflation appear to have peaked, leaving room for an easing in monetary policy.

■ Australian market seems set to move ahead as its economic recovery gathers momentum.

Recommended Save & Prosper Fund: *Eastern Discovery Fund* for current exposure to the Australian and Japanese markets.

EUROPE

Look to gain exposure by end 1991.

■ The unsuccessful coup in the Soviet Union has removed some of the political risk of investing in Europe.

■ Bundesbank recently raised interest rates by 0.25% and may raise rates further if inflation continues to rise.

■ Economic slow-down in Germany is emerging.

■ One year from now interest rates across Europe should be lower and markets should start to anticipate this towards the end of the fourth quarter 1991.

Recommended Save & Prosper Fund: *European Growth Fund* for outperformance by larger companies in a falling interest rate environment.

COMMODITIES

Base metals should outperform during economic recovery - buy.

■ Metal stock piles are relatively low; so, when the economic recovery gets into full swing, prices should quickly respond to the rise in demand.

■ Gold is expected to trade in a band between US\$350 and US\$400 until the end of 1991.

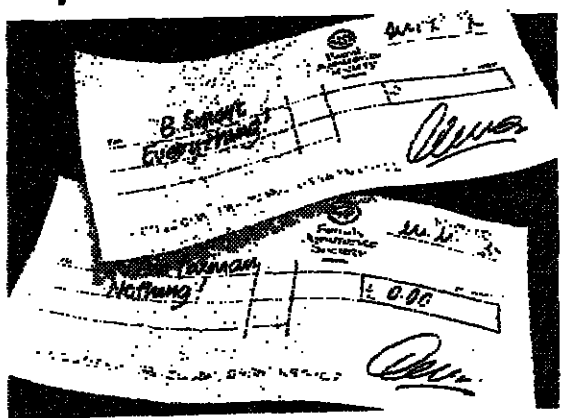
■ The oil price is expected to strengthen during the fourth quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992 as demand picks up.

Recommended Save & Prosper Fund: *Commodity Share Fund* for its high exposure to quality mining shares.

This view of world investment markets contains the opinions of Save & Prosper at the time of going to press. It is intended as an information service for investors.

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When a couple ditched their estate agent they had no idea the firm would be carrying out a survey for their prospective buyer, as Tony Hetherington reports

LATE last year, Robert and LaVerne Flett put their pretty three-bedroom, two-bathroom, London mews home on the market through Ellis & Co, a local estate agent. With the West End just a mile distant and Regents Park only a few minutes walk away, the firm put a £256,000 price tag on the property.

The Fletts, though, quickly became dissatisfied with what they felt was the lack of interest shown by the estate agents while showing prospective buyers round their home. They decided to market the property themselves, and two months later, through a Lebanese neighbour, they found the ideal buyers, Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa from Kuwait.

The couple needed no mortgage and made a cash offer of £270,000. The Al Khalifas' solicitor, however, advised them that it was normal to arrange a survey prior to purchase — and that is where things began to go wrong for the Fletts.

Mrs Al Khalifa simply turned to the nearest estate agent for the survey — Ellis & Co. The survey report that the firm produced was in marked contrast to the sales particulars that the same company published three months earlier.

The property, which had been described as "spacious" when Ellis & Co were selling it, suddenly became "small" according to the firm's survey report.

Far worse, though, were sections of the report that described the house as "some 100 years old". The surveyor added that "the original pitched roof of this property has been removed and an additional storey constructed".

The report went on to recommend that building work be carried out to provide easy access to a concealed water tank.

Finally, Ellis & Co told Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa: "We are of the opinion that the current open market value of the

property is £225,000." This was just three months after the firm had offered the same house for sale at £256,000.

The Fletts were furious. Mrs Flett said: "The property is not 100 years old. It was constructed in 1959. The house has never had a pitched roof. And there is no need for access to the water tank to be provided as it already exists, and the door was pointed out to the surveyor."

To justify the low valuation, Ellis & Co gave Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa details of two other local properties, both on sale through them for less than £225,000.

Mrs. Flett sees this as a blatant attempt to hijack her buyer and to muddy the waters by comparing her home with cheaper properties which, in fact, were less attractive. One of the properties offered had only two bedrooms and one bathroom.

"The second house is not located in a mews at all," she said. "In fact, it overlooks Marylebone Station and railway tracks, yet it was given as a direct comparison to our property."

As a result of the dispute surrounding the survey report, Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa withdrew from the sale.

The Fletts complained to Legal & General, the insurance company that owns Ellis & Co. They were offered a new survey, free of charge, to correct any errors in the existing report, but Legal & General denies that the firm tried to prise the Fletts' buyer from them.

A spokesman said: "Although the details of the other properties came from Ellis & Co, they were sent out by the surveyor and not by the estate agent."

Basil Body, chairman of Ellis & Co, said his firm stood by the surveyor's valuation. He had spoken to Mrs Flett about her intention to

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Lost sale: LaVerne Flett at her news home near Regents Park, now back on the market

publicise her complaint
against his firm

"What I said to her was, why f*** about when you can go to Esther Rantzen? I think you are so pathetic it isn't true."

Mr Body accused Mrs Flett of attempting to trick Mrs Al Khalifa into buying her house. He said: "She really tried to con someone who had been in

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

this country for two months or
 less "

An angry Mrs Flett hit back this week, saying that it was Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa who approached her and suggested a price, and Mrs Al Khalifa

"She had been in this country six months. She studied in London and comes here

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and the people involved.

every year. It is not as if she had just arrived. She went to university here and she is a university lecturer."

Mr and Mrs Al Khalifa are now back in Kuwait, having decided that house-hunting in

England is not worth the trouble. The Fletts' home is back on the market - at £249,950 - but not with Ellis & Co.

... of the account are available on request.
... Staff, ST13 SRG.

هكذا من الاحل

Seller survey aims to cut cost

By CLIVE PARISH

A NEW type of survey that could cut the cost of moving home and speed up the process, faces scepticism among property professionals and potential buyers.

The idea that sellers should commission surveys of their property to show potential buyers was considered by the Law Commission in 1975. The proposal was later rejected. Other opponents include the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the National Association of Estate Agents and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Opposition has not, however, deterred the launch of a scheme in the Midlands and Bristol areas by Associated Independent Surveyors (AIS), of Droitwich, Worcestershire. AIS said its vendor's report gave confidence to prospective buyers by guaranteeing the condition of the property being sold.

The survey costs between £85 and £160, depending on the size and age of the house and the area of the country, and equates to the homebuyer's report recommended by the RICS - half way between a building society valuation and a full structural survey. No valuation is made, however.

Paul Raine, managing director of AIS and a member of the RICS, said it would obviate the need for the purchaser to pay for a homebuyer's report. The vendor was guaranteed a right of redress should the sale fall through because of an undetected defect, while the purchaser could pay to take over the guarantee.

Adrian Britton, director of RICS's general practice division, said, however: "We don't believe buyers would have confidence in such an approach. They will think the advice has been doctored, influenced or suppressed by the vendor's surveyor."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders is concerned that vendors might seek out less rigorous surveyors or those with whom they had a previous relationship and that out-of-date reports might be used.

AIS aims to establish licensing agreements throughout Britain, with independent surveyors employing their own staff to carry out reports.

Overseas treatment may cause problems

Care on the Continent

By LIZ DOLAN

A HEALTHCARE scheme has been launched by Western Provident Association and Mondial Assistance to provide private treatment as cheaply as possible for uninsured patients stuck on National Health Service (NHS) waiting lists. The new service, called Epidaurus after a health sanctuary in ancient Greece, may, however, cause more problems than it solves.

About 17 operations are covered by the initial plan, from hip replacements and hysterectomies to wisdom teeth extractions and varicose vein removal. Patients are offered three quotations, including one from a hospital drawn from a list of Epidaurus-approved establishments in France, Belgium and Denmark.

David Ashdown, WPA's marketing director, said the continental hospitals were able to undercut substantially those in Britain.

Varicose vein removal costs between £1,500 and £2,000 here, compared with £650 and £850 there. Cataract operations costing between £2,000 and £3,000 in Britain are available for just £900.

Dr Alex Scott, general manager of Private Patients Plan, the medical insurance group, said he had considered offering PPP subscribers the option of treatment on the Continent, but had rejected the idea for several reasons.

A major worry was the absence of clear lines of communication between the hospitals and general practitioners in Britain.

Dr Scott said: "GPs normally recommend a certain hospital or consultant because of the quality of treatment



Cheaper on the Continent: David Ashdown of WPA

they can expect. They don't have a clue what the patients are in for, say, France."

WPA said that Epidaurus required the written consent of the patients' GPs before allowing them to venture overseas. If doctors objected, they should not give their consent.

Dr Scott added that hospitals on the Continent employed different procedures that could make aftercare difficult when patients returned home.

They might be faced with, for instance, replacement hips, knees or lenses that were unlike any used by British surgeons.

Epidaurus arranges for duplicate medical notes, translated into English, which may

alleviate some of these problems.

Travel complications are another concern. Dr Scott said: "Price considerations are likely to mean patients will have to travel by ferry rather than flying, and I can assure you I would be loath to travel on a ferry rocked by high winds in the middle of winter just after my new hip's been fitted."

WPA denied that the extra cost of travelling by air would make much difference to the savings obtained by seeking treatment overseas.

A spokesman said: "People who have just acquired a new hip require delicate handling, even if they are being driven home from their local hospital. I'm sure they will be accompanied by a medic if

doctors decide they are unfit to travel alone."

Quality of care is another potential minefield. Continental hospitals do not have junior staff, and may be staffed by specialists with far less experience than their British counterparts, Dr Scott said.

"Our specialists train for up to 15, or even 20 years, having risen through several junior ranks first. Most of our junior doctors are quite capable of qualifying as specialists under EC regulations."

Epidaurus claimed that the consultants in all its approved hospitals were "highly experienced, as well-qualified as their opposite numbers over here."

Dr Scott said PPP had rejected proposals from several continental hospitals who were willing to reduce profit margins to attract extra business. They were able to substantially undercut prices charged by British hospitals because they were suffering from undercapacity.

He added, however, that "you can't make decisions about healthcare on purely commercial grounds."

Other possible snags include language problems and the additional cost of taking a friend or relative abroad. Few patients are thought likely to view with equanimity the prospect of a week or two in a foreign hospital with no visitors or support from home.

A continental option is under consideration at Bupa, Britain's largest health insurance group. If instigated, the service will be available only to Bupa members because, according to Jackie Wiggins, the assistant director of provider affairs, "our role is to protect our members' money and use it wisely, not to obtain cut price deals for people who have chosen not to use our services."

Bupa was in discussion with a number of continental hospitals, which would have to demonstrate their ability to provide a service that was at least comparable with that available in Britain, Ms Wiggins said.

"Our understanding is that our membership tends to request treatment as close to home, friends and relatives as possible. The WPA scheme appears to be aimed at people prepared to trade home comforts for speed and affordability."

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As salesmen will call, however, an Investment Adviser may telephone to ask if you would like further information on our Unit Trust PEP.

THE PRICE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. TAX CONCESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CHANGE. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD. IS A MEMBER OF IMRO AND LAUTRO.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

SUN LIFE BESRES VII SCHEMES

TWO INVESTMENT AREAS

The Sun Life Besres VII Schemes are now on offer to investors. With the choice of Two Investment Areas designed specially to meet the needs of both the risk conscious and the slightly more adventurous BES investor.

The proposed closing date for applications is 1 p.m. on October 4th 1991. If all companies are fully subscribed before that date then, at the Directors' discretion, the offers may close early - so, if you are interested in the Besres VII Schemes please act now.

All investments will go into BES Companies set up and advised by Sun Life Investment Management Services Limited (SLIMS). These Besres Companies will invest in residential property for letting on assured tenancies. The objectives of all the Companies will be to maximise returns over five years, based on capital gain and rental income.

TWO STRATEGIES TO CHOOSE FROM

The PHOENIX Companies will invest in residential properties, aiming to benefit from large discounts or development profit combined with relatively high rental yield. This should produce a return similar to that of assured exit schemes, even if property prices remain constant, so offering the investor the prospect of excellent return - with only moderate risk.

The CAMPUS Companies adopt a strategy of providing residential properties for Universities, Polytechnics and other organisations with an option to sell the property back at a pre-arranged premium at the end of five years. The sale option will be secured by bank commitments or legal charges over assets.

SLIMS is targeting an uplift in the Companies net asset value per share of 33% from the issue price of shares over five years. So investors will enjoy a high rate of return with a very high degree of security.

EARLY TAX CERTIFICATES

A valuable feature of the Besres VII Schemes is that all Companies should have already started their BES qualifying activity, so investors should receive tax certificates as early as December 1991.

NEW OPTIONS

Guaranteed Income for five years can be secured using an Annuity/Besres combination, an excellent guard against falling interest rates. On current Annuity rates for higher rate taxpayers, the Plan will provide income of about 9% p.a. after tax AND all the growth in value of the shares.

Delayed Finance - loans of £15,000 and over will be available from the Bank of Scotland on security for Besres VII Campus Companies shares from January 1992.

THE ROLE OF SLIMS

SLIMS promotes the Schemes and acts as adviser to all the Besres Companies. Its BES business functions are:

- to advise the Companies on all aspects of their business and the achievement of exit routes, for those without guaranteed exits, in five years time;
- to provide certain advisory and administrative services of the Sun Life Group to cut down costs to investors.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BESRES VII...

Full Scheme Documents are available now.

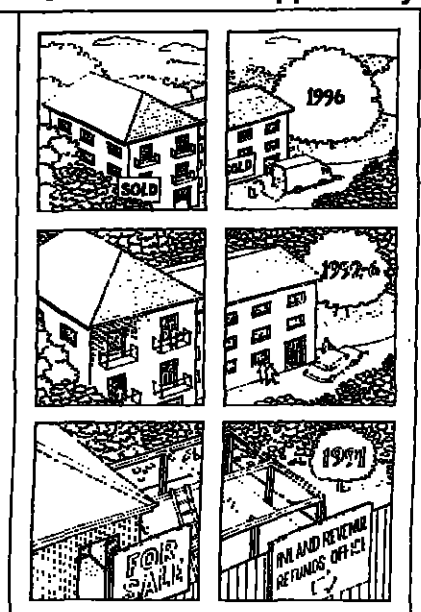
All you have to do to secure your Document is either complete and return the attached coupon, or phone the FREEPHONE number below. Your Scheme Document, giving full details of Campus Companies, will be sent to you - without obligation.

For details of Phoenix Companies simply phone on the FREEPHONE number.

SUN LIFE

Sun Life Direct Marketing Ltd. Registered in England No. 508344
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Registered in England No. 1431060 Registered Office: 187 Chancery, London EC2N 1DL

Your Window of Opportunity



OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 4TH

NOTES

- These Schemes involve investment in unquoted Companies which carry higher risks than investment in quoted Companies.
- The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) regulates the conduct of the investment business of SLIMS outlined in this advertisement.
- Expert advice should be sought before investing in BES schemes.
- Applications to subscribe will be accepted only on the terms and conditions set out in the Scheme Document.
- The Annuity element of the Besres VII Income Plan is issued by Sun Life Assurance Society plc (SLAS), which is a member of LAUTRO. The actual rate of income generated will depend on Annuity Rates in force at the date the Annuity is issued. Full details are available on request.

ACT NOW

Fill in this coupon and post it (no stamp needed) to: SUN LIFE, P.O. BOX 520, FREEPOST, BRISTOL BS99 1SL. Please send me a copy of the Besres VII Campus Prospectus.

Name (in full) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____

Telephone Number _____

(for administration purposes only)

or simply call:

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If you wish to receive any information on future Sun Life product offers, please tick the box. ☐

LETTERS

Concern at promotion of with-profits bonds

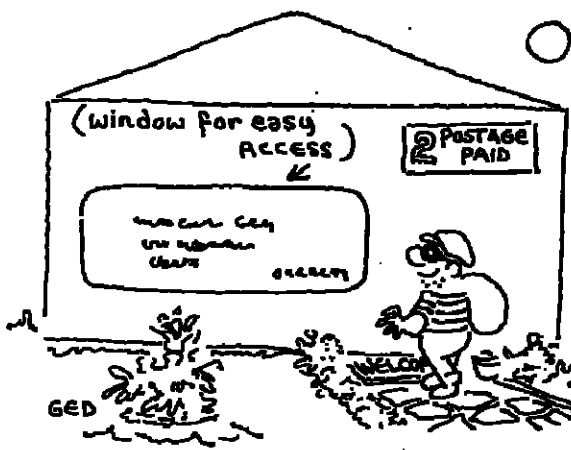
From Mr A.D. Horn
Sir, I agree wholeheartedly with the articles written by yourself, concerning the public's misconception of with-profits bonds.

Many financial advisers, no doubt succumbing to the lure of a fat commission cheque, will promote with-profits bonds under unsuitable circumstances. Typical examples include investing to fund a

TESSA over four years and the provision for school fees in the short term - some often payable within a year!

Insurance companies are loath to criticise such practice in the fear of losing business from a 'good' agent. As for the glossy but potentially misleading brochures - if the facts are made unmistakably clear, they are afraid of losing market share to competitors portray-

ing a more glamorous product. The public need to be made more aware of the nature of with-profits bonds and be encouraged to shop around for an adviser willing to forgo some of his commission for the investor's benefit. Yours faithfully, A.D. HORN, 113 Magdalen Street, Norwich, Norfolk.



Conflicting reports on benefits of plastic

From Elizabeth Balsom

Sir, NatWest's decision to impose a charge for its credit cards has prompted a host of newspapers to urge holders to learn to live without these once-magic pieces of plastic. This leaves me in something of a quandary. I can, of course, manage without my card, just as I did before they were introduced. But I seem to recall that as the holiday

season gets under way, a host of newspapers publish articles advising readers how best to pay for goods and services when travelling abroad, and credit cards rate highly as a convenient, and compared to travellers cheques, a cost-effective mode of payment. Does this advice still stand? Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH BALSOM, 16 Coalecroft Road, SW15

Change to no-charge credit cards

From Mr P. Sutton

Sir, I would suggest to W.T. Garton (August 31) that it is no good trying to appeal to the credit card companies' better nature - they have not got one. I would urge him to change to a card with no annual charge, such as Save & Prosper/R Fleming. It is vital

that people should change to the no-charge cards because if these companies do not attract sufficient business they will not find it worthwhile to continue. Yours faithfully, P. SUTTON, 9 Fairview Drive, Hythe, Southampton.

Recorded delivery helps to thwart thieves

From Mr John Whelan

Sir, I was recently a juror in a trial concerning the use of stolen credit cards, one from Sears, the other from Visa. In both cases they had been stolen BEFORE they reached the cardholder.

This meant that the thief could sign the card in any way which matched the embossed name of the cardholder, and that the genuine cardholder may well not have noticed the non-arrival of a new card, giving the thief a number of days when he (or she) could safely use it.

From the evidence it was

not clear who intercepted the card. But I was encouraged a few days later when my Diners International card arrived in a cardboard-backed envelope by recorded delivery.

Today, however, I received my Lloyds Access card. It was in a soft brown envelope with "window" address which could easily be identified as coming from Access and the plastic cards could readily be felt through the envelope.

It had also been delivered to a wrong address in a different road, although the "window" address was correct. Fortunately the wrong addressee

redirected it. Had a thief used it I would have been liable to pay up to £50. Ironically, the accompanying letter cautioned about "security".

Which raises the question: Why cannot credit card companies follow Diners International and use recorded delivery?

Why cannot they send the separate letter advice that a new card is in the post?

Yours faithfully, JOHN WHELAN, 13 The Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick, W4.

Income reduced

From E.A. Shelley

Sir, From the media, political and economic point of view is the investor in building societies and the Abbey National a non-person?

The question is prompted by yet another hype re a reduction in interest rate for mortgages, followed by an equal reduction of income for investors!

With a modest £30,000 invested in Abbey National's Instant Saver account I have seen my income reduced from £3,270 at 10.90 per cent on 16/10/90 to £2,328 at 7.76 per cent on 30/7/91, ie, a loss of £942 p.a.

I certainly do not plead hardship, as the investment was intended to provide for "non-essential" extra spend-

ing - but the spending will be reduced by the reduction of interest.

There are alleged to be seven investors behind each mortgage and I realise that many of these will also be mortgagors.

Do not the investors deserve a fairly major article in the press?

Why do politicians almost completely ignore the counter-vailing influence of reduction of spending power? Surely very large sums must be involved!

Yours faithfully, E.A. SHELLEY, 10 Berry Close, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex.

Lacking logic

From Jennifer C.N. Bew

Sir, I have just received a letter from my bank telling me about the charges they propose to levy for the use of their credit cards, and a better example of doublethink I never expect to see.

They tell me that because I pay my bills on time and in full, and therefore pay no interest, I am actually being subsidised by those who don't or won't, and therefore it is 'fairer' to charge me for the privilege. Can anyone else see the logic in this?

Yours faithfully, J.C.N. BEW, Editorial Services, 7 Northfield, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.

INTERNATIONAL BOND II

UP TO

12.25%

GROSS P.A. VARIABLE

BEST OFFSHORE RATE FROM A TOP 10 BUILDING SOCIETY SUBSIDIARY

Minimum balance	Gross rate variable
£50,000	12.25%
£25,000	12.00%
£5,000	11.75%

☐ I/We wish to open an International Bond II and enclose a cheque for £_____ (min £5,000). Cheques should be made payable to Bristol & West International Ltd. Please write your name and address clearly on the reverse of your cheque.

☐ I/We would like information on the following: ☐ International Bond II ☐ Guernsey Gross 90 Day Account. ☐ Guernsey Gross Instant Access Account. ☐ Guernsey Monthly Income Account.

NAME (MR/MRS/MS) _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE _____
NATIONALITY _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ TMB/14/9

Please send to International Bond II, Bristol & West International Ltd, 50 High Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Tel: 0481 720609.



At the Bristol & West, we like our customers to enjoy the best rate. And we're once again

offering you exactly that, through our Guernsey subsidiary Bristol & West International Limited.

With our new International Bond Issue II, you'll earn 12.25% gross p.a. on balances of £50,000 or more. We also guarantee to give you up to 2.75% over the first tier of our Guernsey Instant Access Account until 30th November 1992.

And what's more, you don't have to tie up all your money during the lifetime of the Bond. You can make a one-off instant withdrawal of up to £5,000 anytime, as long as your balance remains at £10,000 or more. And after 1st September 1992, you can also enjoy instant access to the interest that you've earned.

Our minimum balance is £5,000 and interest is paid gross. But you should act now, as this offer is strictly limited. Opening an International Bond Issue II couldn't be simpler. All you need to do is fill in the coupon and send us a cheque today. Or for further information about this, or any of our other excellent offshore accounts - like the Guernsey Gross 90 Day, Guernsey Gross Instant Access or Guernsey Monthly Income - pick up a leaflet at your local Bristol & West Building Society branch.

Deposits made with offices of Bristol & West International Ltd in Guernsey are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under The Banking Act 1987. However, deposits and other liabilities of Bristol & West International Limited are guaranteed by the Bristol & West Building Society under the terms of the Building Societies Act 1986.

BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL

Alternative use of electoral register

From Mr Ian Benest

Sir, It was interesting to read in "Passing the credit test" (September 7) that the electoral register is used for credit scoring.

The electoral register form makes it clear that the information is gathered so that everyone legally entitled to vote may do so at the time of an election and also be called for jury service. The form says nothing about it being used for credit scoring or for any other purpose.

So personal data is being collected for one declared purpose and being used for an undeclared purpose in contravention of the Data Protection Act.

Who is infringing the Act: the local authorities most of whom willingly distribute this confidential information to credit reference agencies, the agencies themselves, or the credit scorers?

Yours faithfully, I.D. BENEST, 3 The Willows, Moor Lane, Strensall, York.

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Find out about investing in Britain, by ringing 0800 282 101

10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., 7 days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

YOUR MONEY & HOW TO KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Your house, your furniture, your car - everything you own - is vulnerable to tax on your death. If the total value is over £140,000 and you haven't taken the correct steps, the tax man - not your family - could have the first claim on your estate.

"Inheritance Tax" is free from Allied Dunbar. It shows you how you might protect your family from tax on your property and possessions. How you might arrange your affairs so the money goes where you want it to go. And how you might ensure your dependants will be fully provided for.



To receive your copy, simply complete the coupon and post it to: Sue Hunt, Allied Dunbar Assurance plc, FREEPOST, Swindon SN1 1XZ (no stamp needed).

We will let you have details of our free consultation service at the same time.

Please send WITHOUT OBLIGATION my copy of "Inheritance Tax" and details of your free consultation service.

(Block Capitals please)
(Mr/Mrs/Ms) Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Town _____
County _____ Post Code _____
Telephone (Home/Work) _____

NO STAMP NEEDED
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(24 HOURS)

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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Gain or Loss
1	Staples Leisure	1.00	0.00	0.00
2	Kwik-Fit	1.00	0.00	0.00
3	Brown Shipley	1.00	0.00	0.00
4	Swire Pacific 'A'	1.00	0.00	0.00
5	Channing (W)	1.00	0.00	0.00
6	Powergen	1.00	0.00	0.00
7	Decca	1.00	0.00	0.00
8	Helical Bar	1.00	0.00	0.00
9	Lamont	1.00	0.00	0.00
10	Union Disc	1.00	0.00	0.00
11	Bespak	1.00	0.00	0.00
12	Six Hundred	1.00	0.00	0.00
13	Vival	1.00	0.00	0.00
14	Bowater	1.00	0.00	0.00
15	Morrison (W)	1.00	0.00	0.00
16	Taylor Woodrow	1.00	0.00	0.00
17	Johnston	1.00	0.00	0.00
18	Britton	1.00	0.00	0.00
19	South West	1.00	0.00	0.00
20	Woodside	1.00	0.00	0.00
21	SEET	1.00	0.00	0.00
22	Domino	1.00	0.00	0.00
23	Nardin & Peacock	1.00	0.00	0.00
24	Broken Hill	1.00	0.00	0.00
25	Norcross	1.00	0.00	0.00
26	BTP	1.00	0.00	0.00
27	Shandwick	1.00	0.00	0.00
28	Owners Abroad	1.00	0.00	0.00
29	CRT Gp	1.00	0.00	0.00
30	Hunterprint	1.00	0.00	0.00
31	Hammerson	1.00	0.00	0.00
32	Microgen	1.00	0.00	0.00
33	McKechie	1.00	0.00	0.00
34	Marshall	1.00	0.00	0.00
35	Jardine Math	1.00	0.00	0.00
36	Cater Allen	1.00	0.00	0.00
37	Ugarte	1.00	0.00	0.00
38	Sevens Treat	1.00	0.00	0.00
39	Adrian Water	1.00	0.00	0.00
40	Brook	1.00	0.00	0.00
41	Pearson	1.00	0.00	0.00
42	Powell Duffryn	1.00	0.00	0.00

Please take into account any minus signs

WEEKLY DIVIDEND	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL
1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

UNDATED	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

INDEX-LINKED	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Early gains reversed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 2. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day September 23. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
8	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0

1991	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E
1	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
4	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
6	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10.0
7	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	-0.01	-1.0	10

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Toulon can hoist tricolour with St Leger triumph

TOULON can give Andre Fabre his first English classic triumph and France's first St Leger victory for 12 years by capturing the Coalgate-sponsored prize at Doncaster today.

Apart from his performance in the Derby, Toulon's record stands up very well under scrutiny. Having won his only race as a two-year-old, he began this season with a promising third behind the subsequent French Derby winner Suave Dancer and Beau Sultan in the Prix Greffulhe at Longchamp.

Then came that emphatic victory in the Chester Vase which showed that he is capable of giving of his best further afield.

Quite what happened in the Derby remains a mystery. Suffice to say that Toulon was never going well and beat only four home. The theory that he could not handle firm ground appeared to be disproved. Every last weekend when Toulon went well in a gallop on conditions similar to those he is likely to encounter today.

Toulon's only race since the Derby also showed that his performance at Epsom was completely out of character because he won the Prix Maurice de Nieuil at Maisons-Laffitte by two lengths from Topanora, whom he was meeting on terms d'ib worse than weight-for-age.

Topanora had earlier been involved in that close finish for the Hardwicke Stakes at

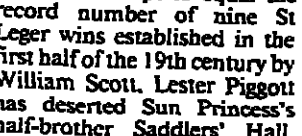
MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Royal Ascot with the consistent Rock Hopper. There is also a form line through Topanora and Zoman which says that Toulon, at his best, is capable of beating the Great Voltigeur Stakes winner Corrupt.

Since he is by Top Ville, who won the French Derby, out of a mare by Mill Reef, Toulon ought to have sufficient stamina for today's test. As he also has a turn of foot, he looks the best equipped for the job.

In an attempt to equal the record number of nine St Leger winners established in the first half of the 19th century by William Scott, Lester Piggott has deserted Sun Princess's half-brother Saddlers' Hall.



Fabre seeking first English classic with Toulon

whom he has ridden all season, in favour of Michelotti, a half-brother to another St Leger winner Michelozzo.

Like his stable companion, Jendali, Jahaful and Arcadian Heights, Michelotti has already shown that he possesses the requisite stamina. However, there is nothing in the form book to say that he is good enough, having only beaten horses of the calibre of Revif, River Patrol, and Robbery Lea.

At least Jahaful beat the subsequent Chester listed race winner Arcadian Heights when he won the March Stakes at Goodwood while Fly Away Soon's closest pursuer in the Glorious Stakes at the same course was Magnificent Star, who went on to win the Yorkshire Oaks.

Undertired, I firmly believe that Toulon will become the second leg of a double for Pat Eddery, who is taken to win the opening Bretiling Swiss Chronograph Graduation Stakes on Balla Jidaal.

While Eddery should also enjoy a good ride on Hyabla in the Reference Point Sceptre Stakes, I prefer Sursurration, who was unfortunate to come up against a rejuvenated Selkirk at Kempton.

Having Sheikh Albadou so close in the Numark Stakes at York, Paris House can gain the consolation prize he so richly deserves by winning the Flying Childers Stakes while the Coalgate Handicap can go to Michelotti.



Fabre seeking first English classic with Toulon

BIG RACE LINE UP

3.40 COALITE ST LEGER STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O colts & fillies: £175,781: 1m 6f 132yd) (10 runners)

- 301 (9) 03121 ARCADIAN HEIGHTS 14 (F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Shirley Heights - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 302 (3) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 303 (10) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 304 (1) 34021 JAHAFIL 21 (C,D,G) (J Hamdan Al-Maktoum) W Hen 9-0 W Carson 88
- (b c Rainbow Quest - River Spey) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, striped cap)
- 305 (6) 4-211 JENDALI 65 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A Cruz 88
- (b c Nijinsky - Jellatine) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)
- 306 (8) 001114 LIBK 21 (F,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 83
- (b c Katalag - Balgis) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, red cap)
- 307 (2) 622410 LUCHIROVERTE 49 (F) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 82
- (b c Slip Anchor - Green Lady) (Beaver brown, maple leaf green cross-belts and cap)
- 308 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)
- 309 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 310 (7) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

Form guide to the ten contenders

- ARCADIAN HEIGHTS**
Aug 31, Chester, good to firm: (6-8) best Secret Waters (6-11) 31m 4f, listed, £13,323, 5 ran.
Aug 24, Goodwood, good: see JAHAFIL.
Jun 28, Newmarket, good: (9-4) best Zoman (6-11) 2m 2f, maiden, £3,623, 4 ran.
- CORRUPT**
Aug 20, York, good: (6-8) best SADDLERS' HALL (6-12) 6f 1m 4f, group 1, £43,281, 7 ran.
Jul 13, Ayr, good to soft: (6-2) 31m 4f, £22,410, 5 ran.
Jun 18, Ascot, good: see SADDLERS' HALL.
- FLY AWAY SOON**
Aug 2, Goodwood, good: (6-3) best Magnificent Star (6-4) 3m 4f, listed, £25,735, 5 ran.
May 10, Lingfield, AW, (6-1) best Colline Avenue (6-1) 3m 4f, £22,410, 5 ran.
Apr 23, Kempton, good: (6-12) 18m 4f, listed, £10,170, 5 ran.
- JAHAFIL**
Aug 24, Goodwood, good: (6-11) best
- JENDALI**
Jul 11, Newmarket, good to firm: (6-4) best Kris (6-10) 3m 4f, listed, £12,224, 5 ran.
Jun 19, Ascot, good: (6-11) best Silver Rain (6-11) 2m 2f, maiden, £3,623, 4 ran.
- LIBK**
Aug 24, Goodwood, good: see JAHAFIL.
Jul 6, Haydock, good to firm: (6-11) best Hawk At Barr (6-11) 3m 4f, listed, £10,170, 5 ran.
- LUCHIROVERTE**
Jul 27, Ascot, good: see SADDLERS' HALL.
Jun 22, Ascot, good to firm: (6-11) best Habyay (6-11) 2m 2f, maiden, £3,623, 4 ran.
- MICHELLETTI**
Aug 20, York, good: (6-8) best River Patrol (6-10) 3m 4f, listed, £13,323, 5 ran.
Jul 18, Leicester, good: (6-8) best Revif (6-10) 2m 2f, maiden, £3,623, 4 ran.
- SADDLERS' HALL**
Aug 20, York, good: see CORRUPT.
Jul 27, Ascot, good: (6-11) best Generous (6-8) with LUCHIROVERTE (6-8) 1m 4f, listed, £10,170, 5 ran.
- TOULON**
Jul 21, Mares-Laffitte, good: (6-5) best Topanora (6-10) 2m 2f, maiden, £3,623, 4 ran.
Jun 5, Epsom, good to firm: see CORRUPT.
May 7, Chester, good to soft: (6-11) best LUCHIROVERTE (6-11) 1m 4f, listed, £10,170, 5 ran.

Selection: CORRUPT (nap)

3.30 BURMAH PETROLEUM HANDICAP

CHASE (2,350: 3m) (5)

- 1 (1) 62212 SPEECH 12 (C,D,F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Speech - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 2 (2) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 3 (3) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
- 4 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 5 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

2.00 TILSTON NOVICES HURDLE

(3-Y-O: £1,305: 2m) (10 runners)

- 1 (1) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 2 (2) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 3 (3) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
- 4 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 5 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

2.30 HALGHTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS

SELLING HURDLE (£1,550: 2m 4f) (8)

- 1 (1) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 2 (2) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 3 (3) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
- 4 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 5 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

DONCASTER

- MANDARIN**
2.30 Balla Jidaal.
3.00 Paris House.
3.40 TOULON (nap).
4.15 Michelotti.
4.45 Sursurration.
5.15 Westholme.
5.45 North Est.
- THUNDERER**
2.30 Trove.
3.00 Paris House.
3.40 TOULON (nap).
4.15 Michelotti.
4.45 Sursurration.
5.15 Vallauris.
5.45 Holoetown.
- RICHARD EVANS**
3.40 TOULON (nap).
4.15 Michelotti.
4.45 Hysbella.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 BALLA JIDAAL (nap). 3.40 Michelotti. 4.45 Hysbella.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.15 WESTHOLME.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST; 1M STRAIGHT, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 BREITLING SWISS CHRONOGRAPH GRADUATION STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,815: 6f) (12 runners)

- 1 (1) 12153 PRINCE FERNANDO 24 (D,F,G) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Prince Fernando - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 2 (2) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 3 (3) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
- 4 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 5 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

3.00 FLYING CHILDERS STAKES

(Group 1: 2-Y-O: £28,200: 5f) (6 runners)

- 1 (1) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 2 (2) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 3 (3) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
- 4 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 5 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

3.40 COALITE ST LEGER STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O colts & fillies: £175,781: 1m 6f 132yd) (10 runners)

- 301 (9) 03121 ARCADIAN HEIGHTS 14 (F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Shirley Heights - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 302 (3) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 303 (10) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 304 (1) 34021 JAHAFIL 21 (C,D,G) (J Hamdan Al-Maktoum) W Hen 9-0 W Carson 88
- (b c Rainbow Quest - River Spey) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, striped cap)
- 305 (6) 4-211 JENDALI 65 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A Cruz 88
- (b c Nijinsky - Jellatine) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)
- 306 (8) 001114 LIBK 21 (F,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 83
- (b c Katalag - Balgis) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, red cap)
- 307 (2) 622410 LUCHIROVERTE 49 (F) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 82
- (b c Slip Anchor - Green Lady) (Beaver brown, maple leaf green cross-belts and cap)
- 308 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)
- 309 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 310 (7) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

4.15 COALITE HANDICAP (2,312: 1m 6f 132yd) (16 runners)

- 401 (15) 12340 REGAL SABBRE 23 (F,G) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Regal Sabbre - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 402 (12) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 403 (10) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 404 (1) 34021 JAHAFIL 21 (C,D,G) (J Hamdan Al-Maktoum) W Hen 9-0 W Carson 88
- (b c Rainbow Quest - River Spey) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, striped cap)
- 405 (6) 4-211 JENDALI 65 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A Cruz 88
- (b c Nijinsky - Jellatine) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)
- 406 (8) 001114 LIBK 21 (F,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 83
- (b c Katalag - Balgis) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, red cap)
- 407 (2) 622410 LUCHIROVERTE 49 (F) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 82
- (b c Slip Anchor - Green Lady) (Beaver brown, maple leaf green cross-belts and cap)
- 408 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)
- 409 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 410 (7) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

4.45 COALITE ST LEGER STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O colts & fillies: £175,781: 1m 6f 132yd) (10 runners)

- 301 (9) 03121 ARCADIAN HEIGHTS 14 (F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Shirley Heights - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 302 (3) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 303 (10) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
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- 305 (6) 4-211 JENDALI 65 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A Cruz 88
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- (b c Katalag - Balgis) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, red cap)
- 307 (2) 622410 LUCHIROVERTE 49 (F) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 82
- (b c Slip Anchor - Green Lady) (Beaver brown, maple leaf green cross-belts and cap)
- 308 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)
- 309 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 310 (7) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
- (b c Top Ville - Green Rock) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

BETTING: 7-2 Toulon, 9-2 Corrupt, 6-1 Michelotti, 13-2 Fly Away Soon, 8-1 Saddlers' Hall, Arcadian Heights, 12-1 Jendali, 16-1 Jahaful, Luchiroverte, 25-1 Libk.

1990: SNURGE 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 8 ran

4.45 COALITE ST LEGER STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O colts & fillies: £175,781: 1m 6f 132yd) (10 runners)

- 301 (9) 03121 ARCADIAN HEIGHTS 14 (F) (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0 W R Swinburn 86
- (b c Shirley Heights - Miss Longchamp) (Dark blue, white sleeves and cap)
- 302 (3) 11622 CORRUPT 25 (F) (J Kallie) N Callaghan 9-0 L Dettori 99
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Pink, purple epaulettes, purple cap)
- 303 (10) 2-1411 FLY AWAY SOON 43 (G) (J Gutter) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 84
- (b c Lear Fan - Nirvanita) (Yellow, blue stripes, blue and yellow striped sleeves, yellow cap, blue spots)
- 304 (1) 34021 JAHAFIL 21 (C,D,G) (J Hamdan Al-Maktoum) W Hen 9-0 W Carson 88
- (b c Rainbow Quest - River Spey) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, striped cap)
- 305 (6) 4-211 JENDALI 65 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A Cruz 88
- (b c Nijinsky - Jellatine) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)
- 306 (8) 001114 LIBK 21 (F,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 83
- (b c Katalag - Balgis) (Royal blue, white epaulettes, red cap)
- 307 (2) 622410 LUCHIROVERTE 49 (F) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 82
- (b c Slip Anchor - Green Lady) (Beaver brown, maple leaf green cross-belts and cap)
- 308 (5) 111 MICHELLETTI 25 (D,G) (C St George) H Cecil 9-0 L Piggott 80
- (b c Critique - Ties Agreeable) (Black, white chevron hoop and cap)
- 309 (4) 5-12162 SADDLERS' HALL 25 (B,F,G) (Lord Westminster) M Stoute 9-0 J Reid 92
- (b c Saddle's Wells - Sunny Valley) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)
- 310 (7) 1-31011 TOULON 55 (G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (F) 9-0 Pat Eddery 98
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- 305 (6) 4-21

Old Trafford's long wait leads to a new policy

United forsake the cavalier style for a better title chance

By CLIVE WHITTE

IT HAS long been considered that, Liverpool apart, the biggest stumbling block in the way of Manchester United and the realisation of their League championship dream — which continues apace at Southampton today — has been their desire, nay their obligation, to win the title in the same thrilling style that they did on the occasion of their last success 25 years ago.

Year upon year of frustrating failure in pursuit of that laudable objective has finally forced the club to accept that in a game increasingly dominated by physical power and tactics, it is an impossible dream. It is no coincidence, therefore, that this season, which represents arguably their best chance in all those years of finishing top, they have been a shade more negative in their approach.

In seven unbeaten games the first division leaders have scored ten goals and conceded just two, statistics which seem to say it all. Gone is that cavalier style, leastways away from home, to be replaced by a shrewd, calculating one designed more to win points, or if necessary a point, than friends.

Last week's 2-1 win at Wimbledon was a case in point. In expectation of heavy aerial bombardment, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, threw a shield of five centrally-minded defenders around Peter Schmeichel, his Danish goalkeeper, and between them they somehow managed to cope with 37 crosses.

At least, it made a change to hear a Wimbledon manager describe the opposition as "hard to play against". "They've got a lot of defenders, a lot of experience and a lot of professionalism," Ray Harford said. "Your gut feeling is that they are going to produce a little bit of magic that will win them games, but they are not the flamboyant Manchester United of old."

They were pretty flamboyant, though, in the 1965-66 season when they won their first ten games and went 15 unbeaten, establishing a ten-point lead at one stage. But they lost their way hopelessly in mid-season and were overtaken by Everton in February

and also Liverpool and West Ham, too, by May. Not for the first time a season ended in tears and not a few recriminations.

Watching Mark Hughes commit himself totally to the cause of United these days it is hard to believe that he could ever be accused of losing interest, which some did, after he agreed to a £2 million move to Barcelona at the end of that season. To be fair, the goals from Hughes, who scored ten during their unbeaten run, had dried up long before he may have day-dreamed of sunnier climes.

Hughes, who once again spearheads United's challenge, put their failure that season down to falling foul of an English winter. "I think we had a great team," he said. "It was the best football that United fans had seen for years and years. But when we lost a few players through injury and the pitches started to cut up, we didn't have the physical strength to get through it."

Now Hughes believes that United have that strength. "It's the biggest and strongest squad I have ever been involved with and that includes Barcelona and Bayern Munich. The difference is that this time we've got players who can come in and keep the team operating at the same level. I would have to say it's the best chance we've had of winning the title since I have been at Old Trafford."

Hughes would describe United's attitude this season as tighter and more practical rather than less attractive. "The manager believes that in away games he has to legislate

for how the other side plays so that's why sometimes he changes the team around (United have yet to field the same team twice). When we've turned out the same team week in week out, the other side gets to know how you play.

"We don't set out to kill a game, just to do a solid job. We used to be inclined to drop off a little bit too much and that gave the opposition space in which to play. Whereas now we push up a lot more to the half-way line. If teams get through we have got the pace to get back at them."

The signing of Paul Parker, from Queen's Park Rangers has given United greater licence to play that way. "He's done very well. One of the good things about the new signings is that they have settled more quickly than some of the other lads did. But now the likes of Ince and Pallister are coming through. They've won something with the club and don't feel like outsiders anymore."

That emphatic blow which United struck for English football in last season's Cup Winners' Cup final is still reverberating around the first division. "We are getting more respect. Liverpool have always had that. Winning the cup has put us on a different level. We're more confident and we feel that we are a team who can win things."

Even if Hughes was United's only forward at Wimbledon it would be misleading to suggest that the club which spawned the greatest single collection of attacking intent in Law, Best and Charlton had turned introvert. The meteoric rise of Lee Sharpe and that which is predicted for Ryan Giggs, an even younger shooting star, is proof of Ferguson's commitment to youth and attack, founding principles of United teams since the days of the Busby Babes.

Sadly, the name of the game nowadays is compromise. Even the Brazilians discovered that, though in their case to no avail. Still, it would be the game no longer to have one famous name from the past back on top again. "You'd be remembered for the rest of your life," Hughes said.



Hughes: committed

COMPLETE FIRST DIVISION CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE

Chelsea v Leeds

A match to test either team's title aspirations. Dongo has recovered from a bruised foot and will make his first appearance at Stamford Bridge since his £1.5m transfer to Leeds. Barry has also recovered from his England injury — a "dead leg".

Hodges is poised to start his first game since his summer suspension in a side reshuffled because Wallace requires an operation. Hitchcock continues in the Chelsea goal in place of Beasant, who is now fit, and Townsend has recovered from a calf injury.

Coventry v Nottingham
Having achieved the surprise result of the season last Saturday with their win at Arsenal, Coventry should consolidate their position at the top of the table.

Crystal Palace v Arsenal
Hardly the sort of game George Graham could have wished for to begin Arsenal's season. Palace's muscular style could bring the best out of Arsenal — or the worst, if they respond in the wrong way. Linper begins a side which is expected to be a fifth defender. Suckling plays in goal for Palace for the first time in almost two years as deputy for Martyn, who is suspended.

Liverpool v Aston Villa
A good opportunity for Liverpool to close the gap on Manchester United even if Ron Atkinson did have a fine record at Anfield when he managed the Old Trafford club. He names his Villa

career. Liverpool delay selection until they have received a report on McManis's fitness. Liverpool's new signing is fast becoming an influential member of the side which is just as well with doubts over Rush's fitness.

Luton v Oldham
Something old, something borrowed, something new. Harford returns to Luton, his former club, to replace Steve Shein. Glover, on loan from Nottingham Forest, continues his struggle against injury.

Manchester City v Sheffield Wed
Wednesday Forest last week without Hirst, a long-term injury absentee, may find a repeat performance against the City. The players' manager, who has been in the club since 1980, has been in the club since 1980.

Norwich v West Ham
Norwich will need more penetration than they showed at Old Trafford last week if they are to register their first home win. Phillips has made rapid progress since joining the club and is expected to be a regular in the first team.

Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon
As the Wimbledon manager said this week, "some people play the piano, some carry it." Nevertheless, Wimbledon have continued to call the tune in most of their games this season despite the loss of Curle, and they have a good record against Forest, who will be without Pearce because of suspension. Laws or Williams are expected to start.

Sheff Wed v Everton
After the way United finished last season they could not have been expected to turn out so well. But they have, two points as opposed to three from their first seven games. Barnes takes over from Harford as the new deputy for Curle, who is injured. Everton, whose season has suddenly gone into reverse after an encouraging start, gave Atkinson his first game of the season in place of the injured Harper.

Southampton v Manchester U
United are in the happy position of staying top today come what may. But Southampton will find them none the less accommodating for that. Still things must be looking up at the Dell if they can afford to delay the start of Hurlock's new career. Moore is favourite to stand in for Ruddock, who is suspended. Kanchelski may not be asked to play by United after his abortive return from an ankle injury last week, though he has improved considerably.

Tottenham v QPR
Tottenham, with some catching up to do in home fixtures, ought to secure their first League win of the season at White Hart Lane. Walker, who has kept three clean sheets in four games, continues at Tottenham's expense. Allen has recovered from a thigh strain. Rangers' team is dependent on fitness tests for Stepiak, Peacock and Wilson. Roberts, Tilton and Iorla have been added to the squad.

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Vaulting into a changing world



Boginskaya: Soviet darling of the Hoosier Dome

In the Russian circus, it is a tradition that the clowns use the preceding act to inspire their follies. After a high-wire act, the chief clown will walk across a washing line, for example. Something of the same thing is happening here at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, as the world gymnastics championships reach their climax this weekend.

For the great events that have been taking place across the globe are mirrored in the sport of gymnastics, of all things. Here in Indianapolis we can see sporting history unfold before us, in gentle parody of the events in the real world.

For the Soviet Union, this represents the beginning of the end of the sporting month which we have known for so many years. And for South Africa, this is the end of the beginning. For the first time since the sporting boycott began, we have South Africa at a major championship.

We have wondered for years how South Africa would return to international sport. On the rugby field, perhaps, or in cricket: perhaps most appropriately, in football. But no. It has happened in the bizarre world of gymnastics, where little girls with make-up flit before grown men in search of decimal points.

The South Africans are here with a delegation of 14, which includes six gymnasts. All but two of the delegation, and all the gymnasts, are white. "We do not have any black gymnasts of a high enough standard yet," Kobus Scheepers, president of the South African Amateur Gymnastic Union (SAAGU), said. "But I am confident that we will within a few years."

The SAAGU had, Scheepers said, acquired a reputation as an anti-apartheid organisation. In the Sixties, it altered its

SIMON BARNES

constitution and expressly forbade any racial discrimination. And in 1983, it launched a development programme, training up black coaches to teach gymnastics. "We came to Indianapolis very positive," said Scheepers. "We knew our house was in order. We knew we had nothing to hide. I had always hoped that we would see South Africa take part in international gymnastics. When the political changes began, I realised we had a chance. Now we are here. I feel very good about it."

South African results have been unimpressive, but it is the very presence of South African competitors among the tumbling pixies in this Humbert Humber world that matters. For the Soviet Union, results are all. And they have, as usual, been carrying all before them, even as Bela Karolyi, the Romanian defender who coaches the United States women, and many others have been predicting the coming end of Soviet domination.

So far as domination goes, this is, at least on the surface, unchanged. The women's team won handsomely: the men filled the first three places in the individual all-round competition. The darling of the competition is a Soviet competitor, Svetlana Boginskaya.

She is from Byelorussia. In fact, not one of the six members of the women's team is Russian; three are Ukrainian. Among the men, all six come from different republics.

"All Soviet gymnasts train at a centre near Moscow," said Leonid Arkayev, the Soviet coach. "It would be very hard for anyone to train for the Olympics outside

that centre. Perhaps trained gymnasts would be able to compete as individuals. I don't know. But the sport has always been centred in Moscow. If the republics were to split, we would not show the same results as we have this week."

There is also the slightly enormous question of money. The Soviet Union spent huge sums on elite athletes. "Gymnastics received a great deal of that money," Arkayev said. "Now we receive less. A lot of trainers are leaving the country. Things are very difficult."

Yuri Titov, president of the international federation, said that four years ago 700,000 Soviet children were doing gymnastics. Now less than half that number are involved. "If the government doesn't find support for the children, we will lose the system of how to select them. If we lose this system, we lose the results."

The West will weep no tears for the end of the hot-house system, one that, in women's gymnastics, sets so huge a burden on the shoulders of the grimly flitting nymphs. As for the money, well, you can do a fair bit with just £28,000. You ask the British men.

They have qualified for the next Olympics by finishing as the 12th best team in the world. Their total in grant money is that £28,000: £15,000 was spent on the trip to Indianapolis.

This does not show a decline in Eastern bloc standards: it shows a genuine improvement. Successful world championships have seen the Brits finish 17th and 13th. This is a bunch of immensely decent chaps who work in bars and as gym coaches to classes of kids. Their celebration party after that 12th place finish has become a thing of legend at the competition.

BOXING

McKenzie plans to put on weight

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DUKE McKenzie, of Croydon, the first Briton to win world titles at two different weights, intends to make his place in the record books secure in the new year. McKenzie, who holds the World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title, plans to move up to super-bantam and go for a third world title.

After his first successful title defence against Cesar Soto, of Mexico, at the Latchmere Leisure Centre, Battersea, on Thursday, McKenzie's manager, Mickey Duff, said that his man was not so much interested in unifying the four titles as winning another one.

"You'll sooner have Duke move up to super-bantam to challenge Benavides than unify the title. I think Duke has enough to be a super bantam. He has height, strength, reach and speed," Duff said.

However, there must be some doubts about how McKenzie might fare against a bigger man. In his bout with Soto he hit the Mexican with everything he had but failed to slow him down. It was Soto, who in spite of being outpointed by a wide margin, who managed to hurt McKenzie in the tenth round and forced him to hold. Soto is only 19 and does not have a heavy punch.

For once McKenzie was stuck for a counter and must have been glad when the referee stopped the bout for attention to his gloves. McKenzie admitted he could have done better but said he had not trained too well because he was unhappy being away from his two-week old daughter, Jessica.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Decision on WLAF

A DECISION on the future of the World League of American Football (WLAF) will be taken at a shareholders' meeting on October 23 and 24.

The league, which began this year, had seemed likely to be scrapped despite the comparative success of some of the European teams.

GOLF: Trish Johnson of Great Britain, hit a five-under-par 67 for a share of the first-round lead in the du Maurier Classic at Cullinstown, British Columbia.

BOWLS: Three former win-

ners, the older Denis Emdreaves, Brian Jones and John Smith, have reached the semi-finals of the men's singles in the Woolwich Broadstairs open.

REAL TENNIS: The two Australian professionals, Robert Fahey and Peter Meares, are favourites for a place in the Laurence Perrier Masters Real Tennis Championships in today's qualifying competition.

BOXING: The British middleweight champion, Herol Graham, has been nominated as the mandatory challenger to the European champion, Sambu Kalambay, of Italy.

SNOKER: Steve Davis defeated Neal Foulds 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the £105,000 Regal Scottish Masters.

ATHLETICS

Matete holds off Akabusi

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, BRUSSELS

KRIS Akabusi went one better at 400 metres hurdles last night than he did in the world championships when he failed to reach the medal winners from Tokyo lined up in the IAAF Ivo van Damme Memorial Meeting for their first race against each other since then. But the British record which Akabusi had been hoping for proved beyond him.

Also looking to improve here

in the Heysel Stadium on her 400 metres hurdles performance from Tokyo was Sally Gunnell. Like Akabusi she failed to reach the high standards in terms of time which she had been setting all season, but at least gained a consolation victory over the world champion.

Gunnell not only beat Tatyana Ledovskaya, the Soviet who had relegated her to the silver medal position in Tokyo, but six more of the finalists from a fortnight ago. She matched Ledovskaya's stride for stride over the first five hurdles, then cleared the sixth in front.

Gunnell is the best technician of them all, and as she came over the last, she was a step ahead of Sandra Farmer-Patrick, the world's most consistent hurdler this year. Driving for the five, Gunnell increased her lead to win in 54.28sec, which was more than a second outside the British record she had set in

Tokyo. Ledovskaya could finish no higher than seventh in 56.87sec.

Lindorf Christie, in his first race since his European record of 9.92sec for 100 metres in Tokyo, was beaten in to second place by Andre Cason, the American who had run 9.99sec in Koblenz. But Christie, who was fourth in Tokyo in the greatest sprint in history, scored a victory over Dennis Mitchell, who had taken the bronze medal.

But the outstanding sprinting came from Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, who had suffered the ignominy of losing both the 100 and 200 metres to Katrin Krabbe. She ran the fastest 200 metres in the world this year with a time of 21.64 sec.

WINNERS: Men, 110m hurdles: A. Doss (GB) 13.28sec; Women, 100m hurdles: L. Christie (USA) 9.92sec; 200m hurdles: K. Krabbe (GER) 21.64sec; 400m hurdles: S. Gunnell (GB) 54.28sec; Long jump: H. Dremster (GER) 7.25m.

Kenyan's march brought to halt

THE procession of Kenyans who have marched through Europe since their country's domination of the men's middle and long distance track events at the world championships will not pass through Sheffield tomorrow in the McVitie's Stadium at the Don Valley Challenge.

(David Powell writes.)

"The public does not want to see bunches of Kenyans running round the track one or two names yes, but hundreds we have never heard of, no," Andy Norman, the meeting promoter, said yesterday. So, in contrast to the meetings in Berlin, Koblenz and Brussels this week, the

emphasis in Sheffield will be on sprints and hurdles.

Mike Powell, who will be the United States, who beat Bob Beamon's long jump record at the Tokyo world championships, will also miss the meeting, but he has a thigh strain.

All five of Britain's individual medal-winners from Tokyo are expected: Roger Black, Kris Akabusi, Sally Gunnell and Tony Jarrett are expected to compete in their world championship events, as is Liz McColgan for the 3,000 metres. But McColgan's race is the longest on the programme, and, for men, there is nothing further

than the Emsley Carr Mile. With no Kenyans competing in the mile, the race will instead be a Britain versus Germany contest: Elliott, Cram, Yates, Fuhfbrugge and Herold.

Only in the 800 metres are Kenyans accommodated. Billy Konchella, the world champion, is one of four, giving Tony McKean another crack at him. They are 1-1 since Konchella ran McKean out of a second round place in Tokyo.

Norman would delight in having another 1min 44sec British 800 metres runner besides McKean, but Kenya have plenty.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston Red Sox 7, New York Yankees 2. Cleveland Indians 6, Baltimore Orioles 5. Milwaukee Brewers 7, Detroit Tigers 0. Texas Rangers 4, Minnesota Twins 3. California Angels 7, Chicago White Sox 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati Reds 7, San Francisco Giants 2. New York Mets 6, Chicago Cubs 2. Atlanta Braves 5, San Diego Padres 1. Montreal Expos 6, Philadelphia Phillies 2. Los Angeles Dodgers 1, Pittsburgh Pirates 0.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUPS: CHAMPIONSHIP: Man. First round, first legs. Liverpool (Lux) 84, Vevey Basket (Swe) 94. Paris Saint Germain (Fra) 87, ASVEL (Fra) 87. Real Madrid (Esp) 87, Real Madrid (Esp) 87.

BROADBENT: Man. First round, second legs. Liverpool (Lux) 84, Vevey Basket (Swe) 94. Paris Saint Germain (Fra) 87, ASVEL (Fra) 87. Real Madrid (Esp) 87, Real Madrid (Esp) 87.

BOWLS

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BOXING

MELBOURNE: Commonwealth light-heavyweight championship (12 mos). Ge. Aitken (AUS) vs. Lesie Stewart (Ire) 1st. BATTERSEA: WBO bantamweight championship (12 mos). Duke McKenzie (GB) vs. Cesar Soto (Mex) 1st. Featherweight (12 mos). Mike Duff (GB) vs. Benavides (Mex) 1st. Light-heavyweight (12 mos). Tony Jarrett (GB) vs. Tony Jarrett (GB) 1st.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 7: England 2, Iceland 1. Group 8: France 2, Austria 1. Group 9: Brazil 2, Portugal 1. Group 10: Argentina 2, Mexico 1.

ICE HOCKEY

CANADA CUP: Semi-final: Toronto Canada 4, Sweden 0. Canada vs. United States in best of three final.

GOLF

MOTTRAM HALL: Greenhills PGA north regional championship. Leading: second round scores: 138. J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138.

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GOLF

MOTTRAM HALL: Greenhills PGA north regional championship. Leading: second round scores: 138. J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138.

WALSLEY: WALSLEY Golf Club. Leading: second round scores: 138. J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138, J. Matthews (Blackburn) 138.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 7: England 2, Iceland 1. Group 8: France 2, Austria 1. Group 9: Brazil 2, Portugal 1. Group 10: Argentina 2, Mexico 1.

BROADBENT: Man. First round, second legs. Liverpool (Lux) 84, Vevey Basket (Swe) 94. Paris Saint Germain (Fra) 87, ASVEL (Fra) 87. Real Madrid (Esp) 87, Real Madrid (Esp) 87.

